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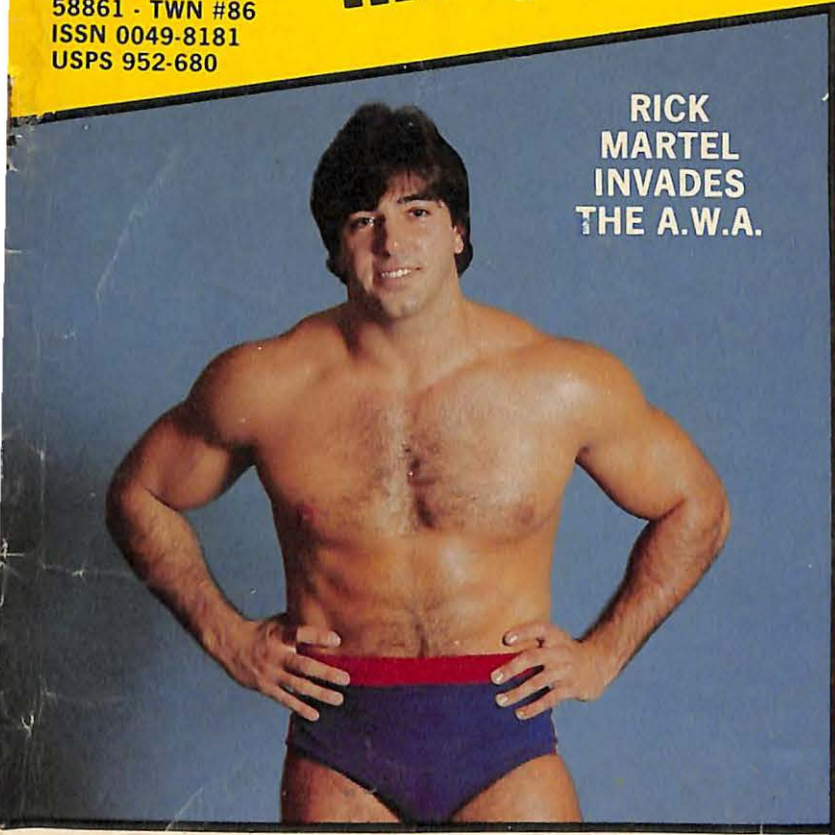

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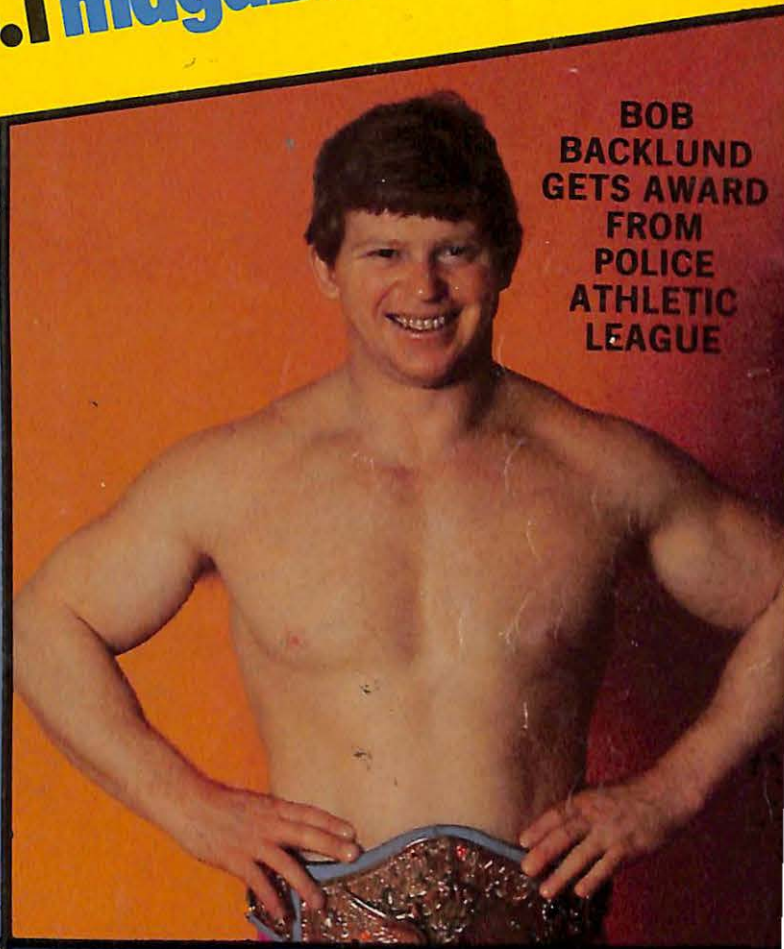

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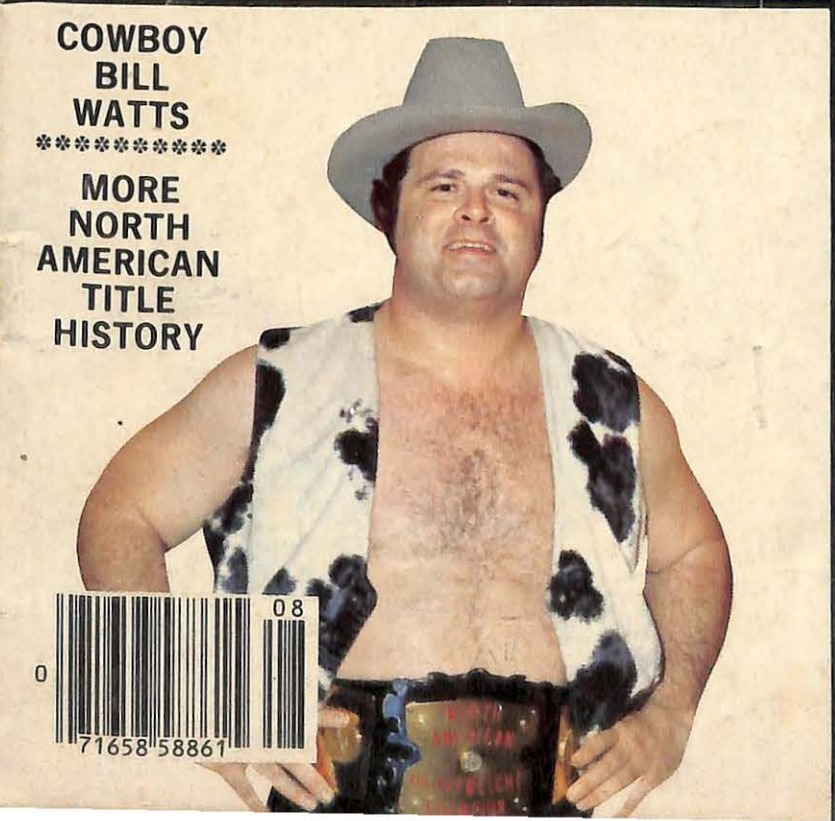

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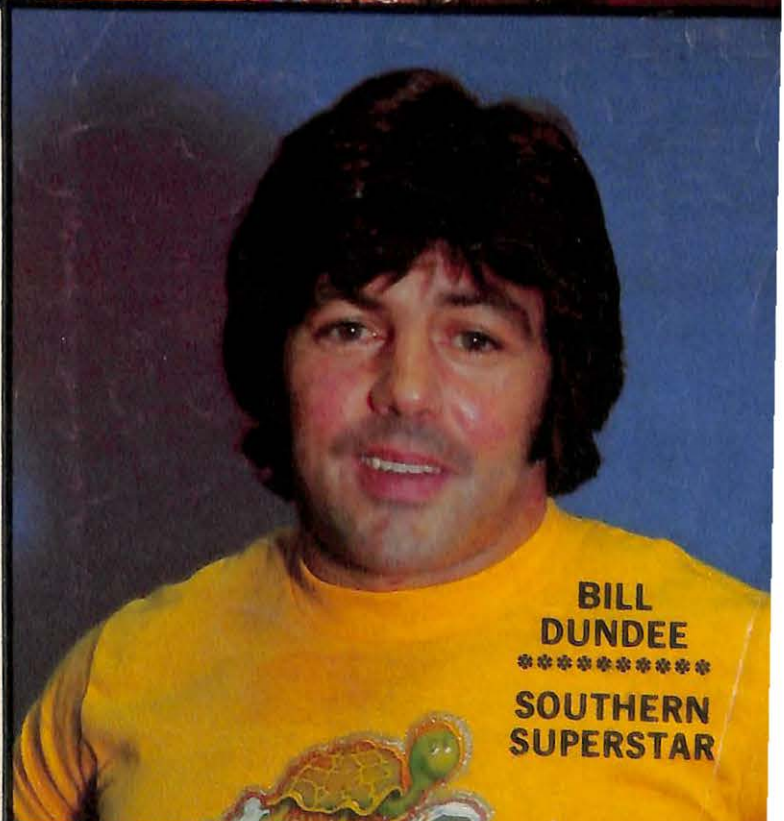

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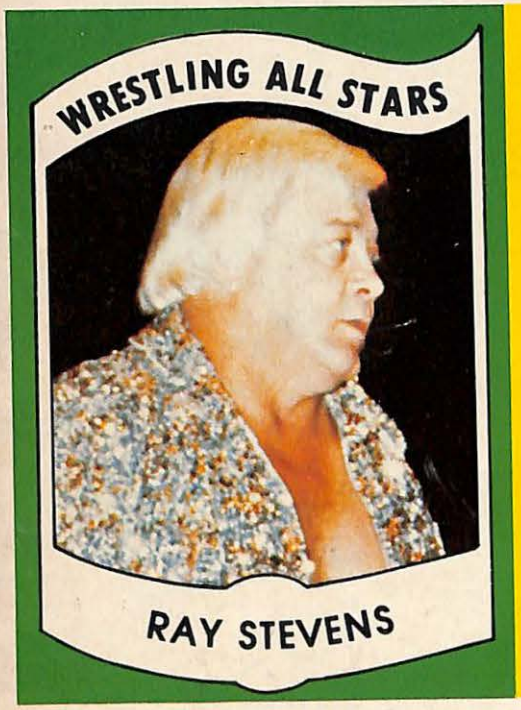

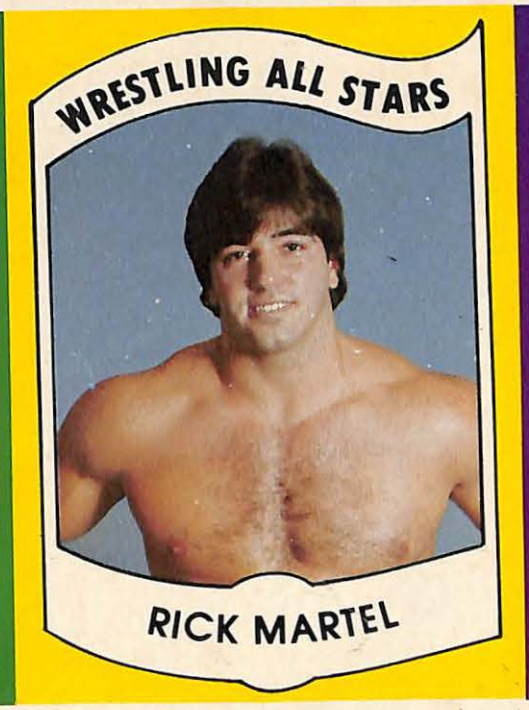

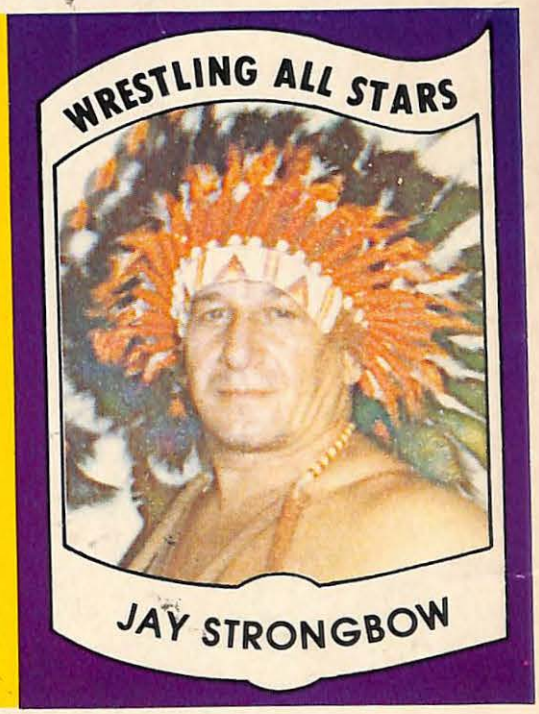

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ON AND AROUND THE MAT WORLD
ARE CLOSE-UPS REPORTS COMPILED BY NORMAN H. KIETZER

Welcome to Area Close-Ups for Issue #86 of The Wrestling News. As I tell you at the beginning of each trip "On And Around The Mat World" the attempt of this column is to cover the entire world of major league wrestling. I determine the coverage based on what information from the tons of it that I receive is most news worthy. I repeat some of this information each issue for new readers so that they are aware of my personal policies and prejudices in writing this column. While I do not recognize any one claiment to the heavyweight championship as being the one genuine World's Champion of our sport, I do consider the heavyweight titles as recognized by the A.W.A., the W.W.F., and the N.W.A. as being the most valid titles in our sport and as being a step above all other regional titles. With that in mind let us start our trip.

THE AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

The booking offices that form the core of the A.W.A. will be covered in one report because there is a great deal of sharing of talent among them. These A.W.A. offices all concentrate on presenting one or two super spectacular cards each month, rather than on weekly cards as some other areas are known for. As a result, each A.W.A. core city gets to see virtually every top A.W.A. star on their spectacular cards. What I consider to be the core A.W.A. booking offices, along with the names of the promoters who head each one, is listed below. They are Milwaukee (Dennis Hilgart), Winnipeg (Don Brinton), Omaha (Joe Dusek), Fargo (Dwaine Hoberg), Salt Lake City (John Olsen), San Francisco (Leo Nomellini), Denver (Gene Reed), Chicago (Bob Luce), St. Paul (Marty O'Neill), and Minneapolis (Wally Karbo).

The World's Heavyweight Champion, Nick Bockwinkel, as recognized by the American Wrestling Association has been very much on the scene of late. There have been a series of battles between him and The Incredible Hulk Hogan that have almost, but not quite, seen that title change hands. Many watchers feel that it is only a matter of time before Hogan wins the title, but Bockwinkel and his manager - Bobby "The Brain" Heenan - have always been able to come up with the necessary combination of skill and trickery to hold on to the coveted strap, and they may very well do so again when the series with Hogan concludes. That is for the future to tell.

The World's Tag Team Championship, as recognized by the A.W.A., is currently held by "Jumping" Jim Brunzell and Greg Gagne. They are known as "The High Flyers" because of their spectacular aerial wrestling. Recently they took that title to Japan where they have been defending it, but are expected back here prior to the time you will read this. Their most persistant challengers still are the teams known as The Sheiks (Adnann El Kaissey and Jerry Blackwell) and as The Black & Blue Express ("Big Bad" Bobby Duncum and Ken Patera, under the management of Bobby Heenan). But there are some other teams on the scene. Ray "The Crippler" Stevens is back in the area full time and has brought back his former co-holder of the title, Pat Patterson, for several tag matches. Stevens also has teamed with others from time to time. And a new combination has been formed by Tito Santana and Rick Martel here. They are both former co-holders of the W.W.F. Tag Team Championship on the east coast (with other partners) and have worked well together in the few matches they have had here as a team and could well move up in two man A.W.A. competition.

Besides the stars already mentioned, others who have appeared in the core A.W.A. area during the past month include Sgt. Jacque Goulet, Baron von Raschke, "Rock & Roll" Buck Zum Hofe, Brad Rheingans, Tom Stone, and midget grapplers Tiny Thumb, Lone Eagle, Little Tokyo and Billy the Kid. The only addition to that list during the past month is W.W.A. star Dick the Bruiser who made one appearance in Chicago during the past month - going to a no contest with Ken Patera.

Nick Bockwinkel versus The Junkyard Dog in Houston.

Next we will cover the two A.W.A. booking offices in Texas. They are located in San Antonio (headed by Joe Blanchard) and in Houston (headed by Paul Boesch). Both offices promote under the Southwest Championship Wrestling banner. The San Antonio office also presents wrestling regularly in Beaumont, Odessa, Alice, Laredo, Skidmore, Pearsall, Harlingen, Port Arthur, Eagle Pass, Sequin, Corpus Christi, and Victoria. Also in New Mexico and southern Colorado. The area titles, recognized by both the San Antonio and Houston offices are as follows:

World's Tag Team Championship: the title is again held by Rick Morton and Ken Lucas who again defeated Tully Blanchard and Gino Hernandez to win it. The match in which the title changed hands took place in Austin, Texas, and these two teams have tangled elsewhere in the area several times as well.

Southwest Heavyweight Championship continues to be held by Dick Slater and Bruiser Brody continues to hold the Southwest Brass Knucks Championship. Other grapplers who have appeared on A.W.A. cards in Texas during the past month include Scott Casey, Bruiser Bob Sweetan, Chavo Guerrero, Manny Fernandez, Tom Jones, Hacksaw Duggan, Killer Tim Brooks, Frank Monte, The Mongolian Stomper, Ken Wayne, Jimmy Golden, El Canek, The Grappler, Jose Guerra, Granade Boyer, Bill Ash, Frank Dalton, Buddy Landel, Colonel Buckley Christopher George Robley III, Billy Spears, Bob Russell, El Fantistico, Cocoa Samoa, Dutch Mantel, and Alexi Smirnoff.

Appearing on Paul Boesch's Houston cards have been most of the grapplers listed above as well as the following: Wahoo McDaniel, Tommy Rich, Mil Mascaras, "Superstar" Billy Graham, The Junkyard Dog, and World's Heavyweight Champion Nick Bockwinkel. In fact, a main event title match between Bockwinkel and The Dog drew the largest crowd ever to attend matches in that city with Bockwinkel losing on a disqualification. These two are scheduled to battle over the World title again next month in Houston so another record breaking crowd may well attend and according to the reports of many who have watched their previous meetings, the A.W.A. could very well end up with a new World's Heavyweight Champion in the person of The Junkyard Dog.

Next we will take a look at the booking office in Memphis, Tennessee, headed by promoters Buddy Fuller and Jerry

Jarrett. They present wrestling under the "Continental Wrestling Association" banner and also hold membership in both the A.W.A. and N.W.A.

Jerry "The King" Lawler continues to reign as A.W.A. Southern Heavyweight Champion. The A.W.A. Southern Tag Team Championship has passed from Bobby Eaton & Sweet Brown Sugar to Bill "Superstar" Dundee & Steve Keirn to Dennis Condry & Norvell Austin. Dutch Mantell regained the area's Mid American Heavyweight Championship from The Dream Machine.

Other grapplers who have appeared on cards presented by the Memphis A.W.A. booking office during the past month include Rick Gibson, Robert Gibson, Danny Davis, Stan Lane, Roy Rogers, The Angel, The Hollywood Hippie, Kengo Nagasaki, The Monk, Jimmy Hart, J. R. Hart, Ron Bass, Joe Stark, Bobby Fulton, King Cobra, The Invader, and The Iron Sheik. The Memphis office presents cards in Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio.

Next we will look at the Pacific Wrestling Federation promotions headquartered in Tokyo, Japan. Lord James Blears is the head of the P.W.F. and the promotion in Japan is known as "All Japan Pro Wrestling". This organization holds membership in both the American Wrestling Association and in the National Wrestling Alliance.

The champions recognized by "All Japan" remain the same as they were last month. Shohei "Giant" Baba is the Pacific Wrestling Federation Heavyweight Champion. Bruiser Brody is the International Heavyweight Champion. Tomi "Jumbo" Tsuruta is the United National Heavyweight Champion. Atsushi Onita is the International Junior Heavyweight Champion. "Giant" Baba and "Jumbo" Tsuruta are the International Tag Team Champions, and the team of Akio Sato & Takashi holds the Asia Tag Team Championship.

The current "Excite Series" features Baba, Tsuruta, Sato, Ishikawa, Rocky Hata, Stan Hansen, The Great Kojika, Tiger Jeet Singh, Motoshi Okuma, Ricky Steamboat, Prince Tonga, Jay Youngblood, The Mighty Inoue, Dick Slater, Ashura Hara, Ron Miller, Kurt von Hess, and Umanosuke Ueda (a.k.a. Tengu/Prof. Ito). Ricky Steamboat has become very popular on P.W.F. cards in Japan. He has now been signed to face Ric Flair (for the N.W.A. World's Heavyweight Championship) and with Atsushi Onita to face The High Flyers - Greg Gagne and "Jumping" Jim Brunzell (for the A.W.A. World's Tag Team Champinship) during the next month in Japan. We should have reports on these matches and also on other defences by Flair and The Flyers of the World's Championship in Japan in the next issue of The Wrestling News.

THE WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

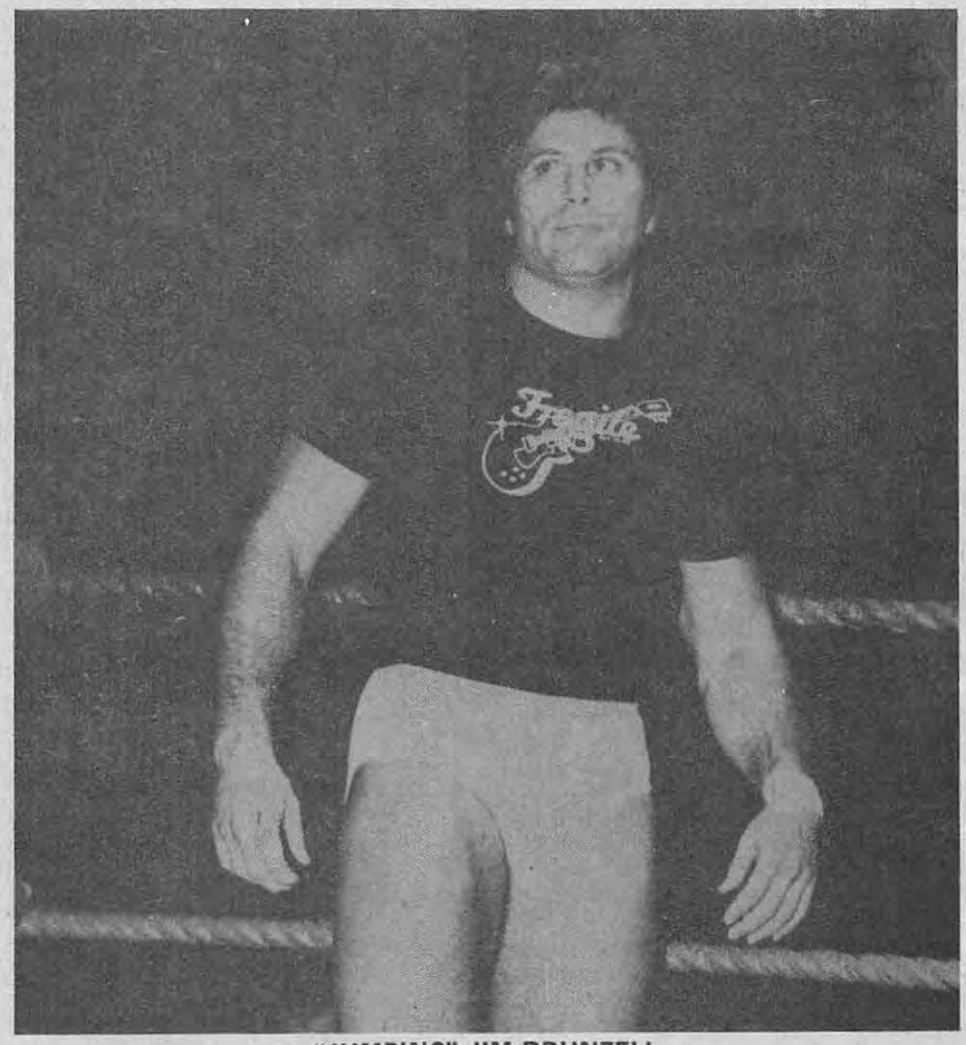
We will start out our coverage of the W.W.F. with a report on the "New Japan Pro Wrestling" promotion in Japan. This promotion is headed by Hisashi Shimma who is also the president of the entire World Wrestling Federation. "New Japan" promotions hold membership in both the World Wrestling Federation and in the National Wrestling Alliance. Action here in the junior heavyweight division has been hot and heavy. We recently saw via a tape supplied us by Mitsuru Uehira the match in which Tiger Mask regained the World Wrestling Federation Junior Heavyweight Championship by defeating Black Tiger. N.W.A. World's Junior Heavyweight Champion Les Thornton has also been very active on "New Japan" cards during the past month. Among those he has turned back have been Kantaro Hoshino, Yoshiaki Fujiwara, Junji Hirata, and Higo "Animal" Hamaguchi. A natural match here now would be one between Thornton and Tiger Mask.

The Gran Prix Heavyweight Championship tournament is still in the works here, and both the Asia Heavyweight and Asia Tag Team titles recognized by this organization are also vacant and reportedly there are tournaments in the works for them as well.

Antonio Inoki continues to be recognized here and throughout the W.W.F. as World Martial Arts Champion. El Gran Hamada is a double titleholder, with recognition here as both World's Middleweight Champion and World's Lightheavyweight Champion.

Featured on cards recently have been Abdullah the Butcher, "Big Red" Reese, "Bad News" Allen Coage, Special Delivery Jones, Perro Aguayo, Jose Estrada, Jose Gonzales, "Playboy" Buddy Rose, Jim Neidhart, and The Incredible Hulk Hogan. Among the Japanese stars who regularly appear on "New Japan" cards but have not been mentioned earlier are Tatsumi "Dragon" Fujinami, Yoshiaki Yatsu, Seiji Sakaguchi, Kengo Kimura, Osamu Kido, Jager Lee Haruka Eigen, Isamu Teranishi, and Arakawa.

Signed to appear in the "Summer Series" which should be started by the time you read this are: Andre the Giant, Dick Murdoch, Jesse "The Body" Ventura, The Incredible Hulk Hogan, Ultraman, and Hiro Matsuda.



"JUMPING" JIM BRUNZELL

Next we will take a look at the W.W.F. booking office in Mexico City. It is headed by Francisco Flores and is known as the "Universal Wrestling Association." The U.W.A. presents professional wrestling throughout Latin America. We do not have an up to date list of champions recognized by the U.W.A. but we understand that El Canek still holds the organization's heavyweight title. We have received a clipping of a card at the El Toreo bullring in Mexico City so we know that among the grapplers who have appeared on W.W.F. cards in Mexico recently are Gran Hamada, Takano, Kobayashi, Negro Navarro, Signo, Texano, Babe Face, Tony Rocco, Enrique Vera, Brazo De Oro, Brazo De Plata, Kahos, Cuchillo, Fishman, Huracan Ramirez, Solitario, Olimpico, Angel Blanco, Anibal, and lady wrestlers Estela Molina, Rossy Moreno, Chela Salazar, and Panterita Surena.

We have nothing new to report on the booking office in Honolulu, Hawaii, which is headed by Peter Maivia. He holds membership in both the W.W.F. and the N.W.A. At last report, Roy Starr, Siva Afi, Rocky Johnson, Victor Rivera, Dynamo Milo, Mike Allen, Sebastian Stone, Sakalai, Super Fly Tui, and Farmer Boy Ipo were appearing there.

The Los Angelos booking office headed by Mike LeBell also holds membership in both the W.W.F. and N.W.A. They present wrestling throughout southern California and in Nevada. The titles recognized here remain the same as they were in our last report, The Exotic Adrian Street holds the Americas' Heavyweight Championship. Brazo de Oro and Brazo de Plata are recognized as World's Tag Team Champions. Black Terry as World's Lightweight Champion. Victor Rivera as "Beat The Champ" titlelist. And Lola Gonzales as World's Ladies Champion. "Superstar" Billy Graham recently won an impressive victory over Rhingo Rigby in the main event at The Showboat in Las Vegas. Killer Kim (who is the brother of Il Kim Kintaro Oki) recently arrived here from Korea as did the Japanese team of Mr. Go and Mr. Toyo. Other grapplers who have appeared in the area recently include Black Gordman, Negro Navarro, El Texano, El Signo, Los Villanos 1-2-3, Mando Guerrero, "Bad Boy" Bobby Lane, Diamond Timothy Flowers III, Kamakaze, Scorpio, and Chris Adams.

Next we will take a look at the Capitol Wrestling Corporation which is headed by Vince McMahon and Phil Zacko. This booking office is located in Washington, D.C., and holds membership in both the W.W.F. and N.W.A. They present professional wrestling throughout the northeast United States - with top cards in all of the major arenas. Bob Backlund, the World Wrestling Federation Heavyweight Champion, has been very busy here of late defending his title. Pedro Morales is the area's Inter-

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Continental Heavyweight Champion and has been defending that title often. The other recognized titleholders are Andre The Giant (The People's Champion), The Fabulous Moolah (Ladies Champion) and the team of Mr. Fuji & Mr. Saito (tag team champions).

Fuji & Saito are managed by Capt. Lou Albano who sometimes joins them in the ring for six man tag battles. Their most potent challenges of late have come from the Strongbow Brothers (Jay and Jules) and the Carolina Connection (Steve Travis & Rick McGraw). Moolah has defended her ladies championship against Judy Martin and against Penny Mitchell. Gorilla Monsoon has returned to the ring several times here recently, but in the role of special referee. He has not been a contestant.

Other leading heavyweight challengers in the area during the past month include Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka, Cowboy Bob Orton, Black Jack Mulligan, Tony "Mr. U.S.A." Atlas, Ivan "Polish Power" Putski, Tony Garea, Greg Valentine, "Playboy" Buddy Rose, Special Delivery Jones, "Golden Boy" Adrian Adonis, and Salvatore Bellomo. Appearing in preliminary or television matches have been Rocky Smith, Vic Taylor, Bob Bradley, Pete Rosello, Terry Gunn, Miguel Feliciano, Steve King, Swede Hanson, Charlie Fulton, Jose Estrada, Johnny Rodz, Laurent Soucie, Pete Sanchez, James J. Dillon, Frank Williams, Jeff Craney, Charlie Brown, Mac Rivera, Baron Mikel Scicluna, Larry Sharpe, Barry Hart, Tony Colon, and The Black Demon.

The last W.W.F. booking office we will take a look at in this section is the one in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, that is headed by Frank Valois. Dino Bravo continues to hold the Canadian Heavyweight Championship recognized here and has successfully defended it against challenges from Big John Studd, Greg "The Hammer" Valentine, and Gilles "The Fish" Poisson. Poisson and Sailor White hold the Canadian Tag Team Championship recognized here. Bob Backlund made a visit here and successfully defended the W.W.F. heavyweight title against the challenge of The Intelligent Sensational Destroyer in a real battle. Other wrestlers who have appeared here recently include Ed Carpentier, Raymond Rogeau, Pierre "Mad Dog" Lefebvre, Louis Lawrence, The Hangman (a.k.a. Le Bourreau), Richard Charland, Gino Britto, and Andre the Giant.

THE NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

We will start our coverage of the N.W.A. with a look at the Charlotte Booking office which is headed by the Crockett Brothers, Jim and David. Jim is also the president of the entire N.W.A. which is the largest cooperative of professional wrestling promoters in the world. The N.W.A. recognizes a World's Heavyweight Championship, currently held by Ric Flair; a World's Junior Heavyweight Championship, currently held by Les Thornton, and is now in the process of recognizing one set of World's Tag Team Champions. A tournament is currently in process that has narrowed the field down to two teams - Stan Hansen & Ole Anderson and Wahoo McDaniel & Don "The Magnificent" Muraco.

BIG JOHN STUDD

The Charlotte office presents wrestling throughout the Carolinas and Virginia. There have been quite a few title changes since our last report. Porkchop Cash & King Parsons captured the Mid Atlantic Tag Team Championship from The Privates (Don Kernodle & Jim Nelson). Wahoo McDaniel took the area's United States Heavyweight Championship from Sergeant Slaughter. Jack Brisco continues to hold the Mid Atlantic Heavyweight Championship and has turned back several challenges from former champion Roddy Piper. Ivan Koloff still holds the Mid Atlantic Television Championship and has continued to feud with Jimmy Valiant over that title. Koloff has also formed an alliance here with The Ninja.

We have just learned that the final matches in the tournament for the World's Tag Team Championship have been delayed because of McDaniel's winning of the U.S. title. We understand that Wahoo has split with his partner in the tag finals, Don Muraco. So we are not sure what this will do to the tag tournament.

Other wrestlers who have appeared on cards in the Mid Atlantic area during the past month include Angelo "King Kong" Mosca, Killer Khan, Ron Ritchie, Mike Davis, Ken Timbs, Kelly Kiniski, Jim Dalton, Keith Larson, Bill White, Johnny Weaver, "Pretty Boy" Karl Fergie, David Patterson, Paul Jones, Rusty Roberts, Mike Rotundo, Tony Russo, Tim Horner, Black Jack Mulligan Jr., Steve Sybert, Terry Taylor, Jake Roberts, Gene Anderson, Ken Hall, Ric Connors, Vinnie Valentino, Gary Moore, Jerry Brisco, The Monk, Deke Rivers, Don Gilbert, and Ali Bey. A new team called The Samoans is on the scene, but this is not the same team known by that name as held the W.W.F. and M.S.W.A. tag team belts during the past two years, according to the reports that we have.

Next we will look at the Toronto, Ontario, Canada, booking office. It is headed by Frank Tunney, who started to promote wrestling in that city back in

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 48)

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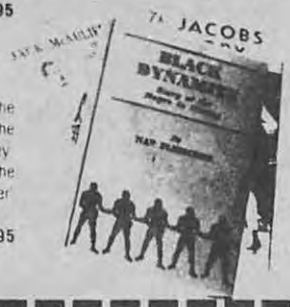

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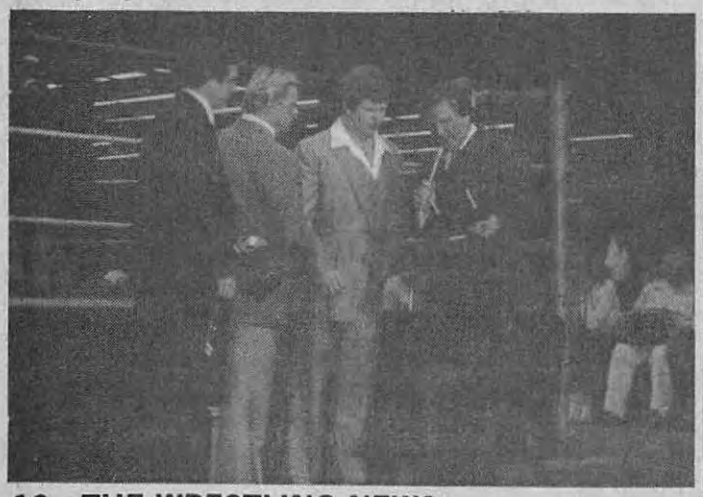
W.W.F. CHAMPION BOB BACKLUND RECEIVES NEW YORK POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE AWARD

By Joe & Ron Cunliffe

On May 11th, 1982, at The Allentown Agricultural Hall W.W.F. T.V. tapings, Champion Bob Backlund was pesented with a pen and pencil plaque and a jacket from the New York Police Athletic League. This was in recognition for his work with the children of Suffolk County, and in particular his wrestling camp that he sponsored and held for the kids. Sergeants George Waldbauer and Jerry Gilmore, of the Suffolk County Police Department, along with W.W.F. color commentator Pat Patterson, presnted Bob with the awards before the T.V. audience. On behalf of this publication, we would also like to congratulate Mr. Backlund for taking time from his busy schedule to not only work with the kids, but also for his continued ways of setting a good example for today's youth to follow.



RICK MARTEL INVADES THE A.W.A. RINGS

By James C. Melby

Ever since Ricky Martel left the W.W.F., our office has been flooded by mail inquiring about his current whereabouts and activities.

In all my years of covering professional wrestling, I have never seen such response to a wrestler leaving an area.

Well, to answer all of you concerned Ricky Martel fans, he is alive and doing well, wrestling under the A.W.A. promotional banner. If early matches are any indication, it looks as if he is destined to become a very huge fan favorite here also.

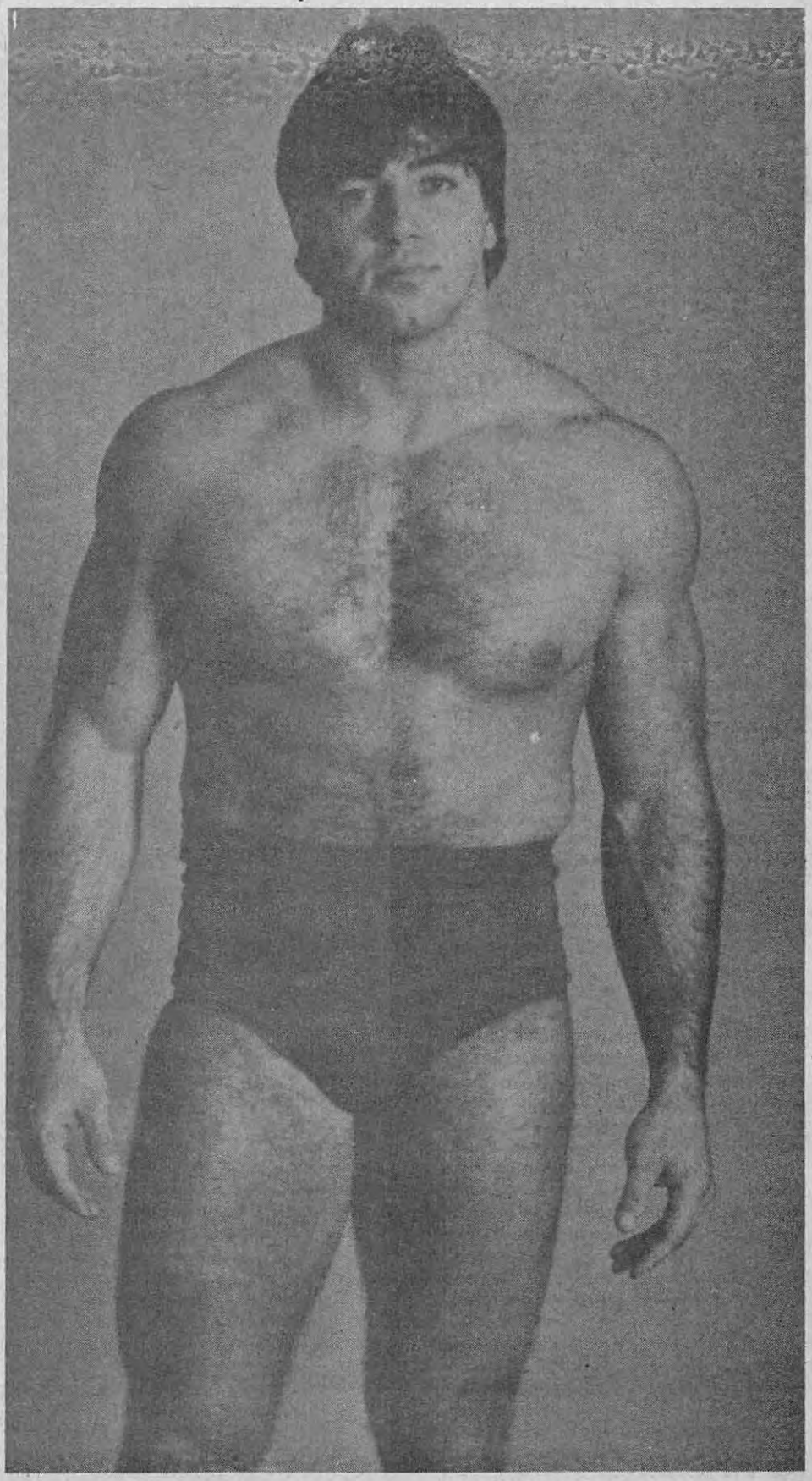
He has jumped into the fire by already battling against some of the A.W.A.'s most vicious competitors. Men such as Ken Patera, "Big Bad" Bobby Duncum, Bobby "The Brain" Heenan, Sheik Adnann El Kaissey, and "Rocky" Tom Stone have already learned that Martel is not one to take too lightly.

Many are wondering if Ricky will go after the coveted A.W.A. Tag Team Title, which is currently held by Greg Gagne and "Jumping" Jim Brunzell. Martel has already formed a tag team combination with sensational Tito Santana. Together they have the youth, speed, ability, and desire that could lead them to the top. A match between them and The High Flyers would really be something to see, considering they are four of the very best young wrestlers active in the game today. The only problem would be finding a referee that would be able to keep up with a match that would be destined to deliver such lightning fast action.

Ricky in the past has been very successful as a tag team wrestler. Recently he held the coveted W.W.F. Tag Team crown on two occassions with Tony Garea. Prior to that he has held other major tag team championships with partners such as Mark Lewin, Tommy "Wildfire" Rich, and "Rowdy" Roddy Piper.

There is also sound speculation that in upcoming months Martel may become a leading contender for Nick Bockwinkel's A.W.A. Heavyweight Championship. It is no secret that Bock's manager Bobby "The Brain" Heenan is already doing everything in his power to avoid such a possibility turning into a reality. So far though it looks like he can hold his own against the champion's so-called policemen, Ken Patera and "Big Bad" Bobby Duncum.

Whatever the future brings, be sure to read upcoming issues of this publication to follow Rick's progress in the A.W.A.

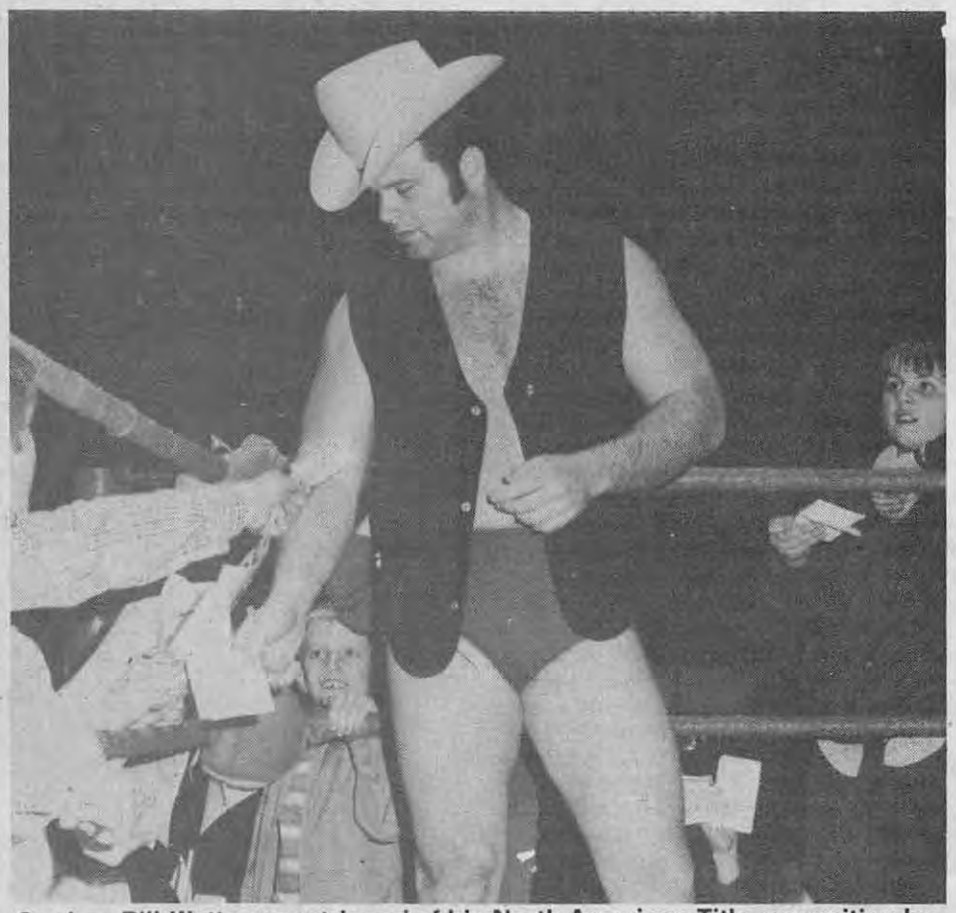


THE HISTORY OF THE NORTH AMERICAN HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP - PART II

By Jay West

Back in Issue #81 of THE WRESTLING NEWS my good friend Jim Melby presented a history of the North American Heavyweight Championship. I personally find as a reader of wrestling related material that history stories are both enlightening and entertaining; however as a writer I realize they are difficult to put together because of the amount of tedious research that is required for the finished product. It is also easy to leave out details that may appear to the writer as trivial incidents, but to some readers these same incidents may have seemed essential to the story. In talking with Georgia fans I found that most of them felt certain incidents relating to the North American title were left out of the story that they felt needed to be mentioned. No, Jim didn't forget to mention the native Georgians who held the title, Jerry Oates in 1977 and Ray Candy in 1978; nor did he forget the Georgia legend Mr. Wrestling II, who won the title from Ernie Ladd at the Atlanta City Auditorium in 1979. What was left out were the title changes that took place in Florida and Georgia between 1974 t0 1976. It is true that at that time recognition of the title was split and Jim only mer ioned title changes involving one version of the belt. I decided to see if there was enough material on the other title changes to warrant a story. Upon doing my research I not only found that the material was there but as I began to put the pieces together I realized that the story read more like a movie script than a magazine article. You've seen Rocky II, Walking Tall II, now read the screen play for North American Championship II....starring (in order of appearance) Cowboy Bill Watts, Bob Armstrong, and Buddy Colt with Bobby Shane and Playboy Gary Hart; special appearances by Tank Patton, Mr. Wrestling II, and promoters Paul Jones and LeRoy McGuirk; cameos by Freddy Blassie and Bobo Brazil and introducing Iron Mike McCord.....screenplay by Jay West.

As the credits end, the scene opens on a wrestling ring, the final few seconds of a hard fought battle for the North American title. The time 1970 is quickly flashed on the screen. As the crowd cheers the referee counts three and raises the sweat drenched hand of the new champ Cowboy Bill Watts, as the fallen Spoiler is shown on the canvas in the background. Watts leaves the ring and heads for the dressing room. The two-hundred and ninety pound Oklahoman's character is developed quickly. He is driven by ambition, he wants the world title and he says he will defend his new belt anytime and anywhere he can to insure his credibility with the fans to demand a world title match somewhere.



Cowboy Bill Watts, was stripped of his North American Title recognition by certain promoters, but he continued his defense of the crown.

The scene shifts immediately time wise to Marietta, Georgia. A young fireman is returning home after a hard day's work. The mailbox reads Bob Armstrong. Bob has a decision to make. He sits down in his living room and holds an award in his hand. Its been sitting on a shelf for three years. The award reads "NWA Rookie Of The Year 1967." Bob gathers his family around and tells them he's made a decision that he hopes they will all support. He tells them that if he is really going to make it as a pro wrestler he's going to have to give up his secure fireman's job and wrestle full time. As his family voices their approval the camera moves in on a close up of Bob's face. He wonders to himself if he's made the right choice.

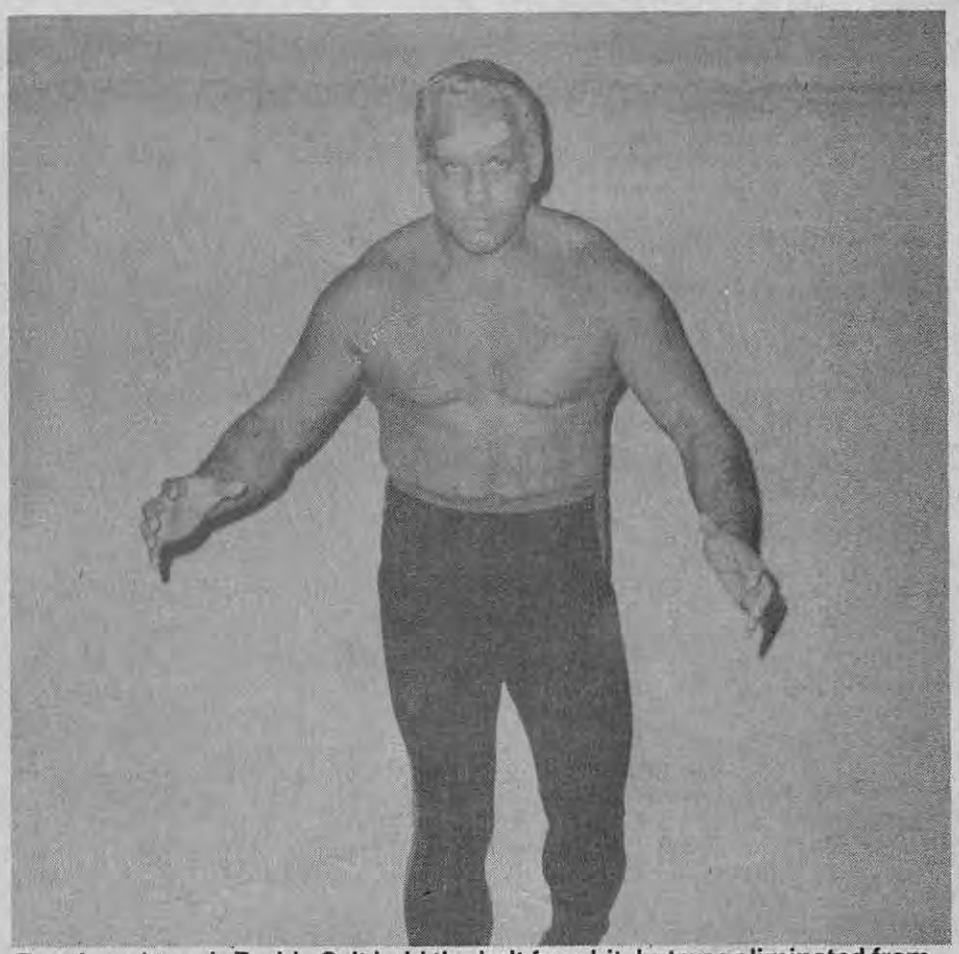
The scene shifts to a smoky bar in Mobile, Alabama. Another man is contemplating his future also. The camera is shooting over his shoulder on a magazine that he is reading. Under a picture the captions reads "Doug Gilbert and 'The All American Boy' Bobby Shane Were The Georgia Tag Team Champs In 1969." As the camera shifts we see that the man sitting alone is Shane, but he doesn't have the clean cut looks that he had in the picture with Gilbert. Bobby's hair is long and bleached and he has a handle bar mustache. He smiles as he mumbles to himself "so long all American boy, long live the king of wrestling." The picture fades.....

The words flash on the screen...two years later.....It's November 1972, Promoter Paul Jones has just signed two major stars to appear in Georgia. One of the men is the North American Champion Bill Watts, the other is the Southern Heavyweight Champion Buddy Colt. A montage of shots show Watts defending the North American Championship in the Oklahoma promotional area of Leroy McGuirk

and simultaneously winning match after match in Georgia. At first the Georgia fans support the tough talking Watts as he defeats the likes of Tank Morgan and Tarzan Tyler. He then goes on a campaign against masked men. The people are behind him as he unmasks The Masked Marvel, The Texan, and Doctor Blood; but when Watts announces on Georgia Championship Wrestling T.V. that he's going after the mask and Georgia Heavyweight Championship of Mr. Wrestling II, the Georgia fans turn against him. Watts tells an associate that he doesn't care because he feels the Georgia Championship is important and necessary to get the world title match.

It's now one month later, December 1972. The Southern Heavyweight Champion Buddy Colt makes his way from the stage of the Atlanta City Auditorium to the ring located in the center of the arena. The fans boo loudly as the blond good looking two-hundred and fourty pounder from New York steps into the ring. Colt broadly grins and points to the belt around his waist. The boos suddenly turn to cheers as the lean two-hundred and twenty pounder from Marietta, Georgia Bob Armstrong shakes hands with people who have watched him in Georgia rings for the last six years. Armstrong looks confident as he enters the ring. He should, since we saw him earlier in our prresentation he has held the Columbus and Gulf Coast Heavyweight titles and the Georgia Tag Team Championship. A young radio newsman is sitting on the front row with his father. The young man is taking notes on the matches. Occasionally he gets to mention items about wrestling on his radio show. He will have something to report the next day because during this hard fought and bloody match Buddy Colt will be defeated and Bob Armstrong will have his hand raised as the new Southern Heavyweight Champion.

It's now nine months later and Promoter Paul Jones is after Bill Watts to defend the North American Championship in Atlanta. Watts has previously declined to defend the title in Georgia but by now he also holds the Georgia Championship so he feels it's time to put the North American title on the line here as well as in Oklahoma. In September of 1973 and November of 1973 Watts successfully defends the North American Title against two seasoned professionals with international reputations brought in by Paul Jones. The men are Freddy "the vampire" Blassie, and Bobo Brazil, the three hundred and twenty-pound black giant from Benton Harbor, Michigan. If anyone had any previous doubts about Watts' ability these two title defenses dispelled them. At this point Watts contacts



Rough and tough Buddy Colt held the belt for a bit, but was eliminated from contention by a injury suffered in an airplane crash.

Promoter Leroy McGuirk in Oklahoma and tells him that he is leaving on a tour of Japan. McGuirk is unhappy with Watts because Bill won't be around the U.S. to defend the North American Championship. The Japan tour is the last straw as far as McGuirk is concerned. We switch to scenes of Watts wrestling in Japan and then back to Oklahoma where Tank Patton pins Dewey Robertson in a final elimination match and is awarded a new North American Championship belt by Leroy McGuirk.

The new year 1974 opens with Bill Watts returning to Georgia. He is furious when he finds out that he has been stripped of the North American Championship by McGuirk. He tells Promoter Paul Jones that nobody beat him for the title and as far as he is concerned he's still the champ. Watts signs to defend his belt, what he calls the "legitimate North American Championship" in Charlotte, North Carolina; Tampa, Florida; and Atlanta, Georgia. Watts also forms a controversial relationship with the self proclaimed "King of Wrestling" Bobby Shane. Shane had recently made his return to Georgia with his new image after a long and successful stay in the Florida rings. Watts and Shane team in a series of matches against Mr. Wrestling I and II.

Promoter Paul Jones signs a "double-title match" to headline his May 10, 1974 card at the Atlanta City Auditorium. Mr. Wrestling II agrees to put up the Georgia title against Watts' North American title in a winner take all match. Mr. Wrestling II wins the match, but not the North American title because in flashback we see Watts losing the belt to Buddy Colt one week earlier in Florida. Buddy Colt continues his winning streak as he also wins the Georgia Championship from Mr. Wrestling II in a hard fought two out of three fall match in Atlanta on July 5, 1974.

The scene switches to a few weeks later, a dressing room in Jacksonville, Florida. Bob Armstrong is preparing for the biggest match of his career. Bob has been successful in Florida and he has forced Buddy Colt to sign for a title match this evening for the North American title. It takes Armstrong only 32 seconds to win the belt from Colt and become the first native Georgian to hold the title.

On September 20, 1974 Promoter Pau l Jones presents one of his early "Omni Spectaculars" in Atlanta. On this evening Bob Armstrong successfully defends the North American title against Buddy Colt.

Bill Watts on this night is a man without a title and he agrees in desperation to beat two men in a handicap match to get another title shot. Usually in a handicap match two rookies are matched against a veteran. Paul Jones didn't make it easy for Watts that evening and he beat seasoned professionals Doug Gilbert and Bill Drome in the alloted time. On the same card Jack Brisco wrestled Harley Race and Mr. Wrestling I and II battled the Anderson Brothers for the Georgia Tag Team Championship. Paul Jones and Georgia Championship Wrestling are getting a reputation for bringing together the top talent from around the country for the monthly Omni cards.

In the next scene a few weeks have passed and a new man is negotiating with Paul Jones to improve his reputation by taking on the top talent in Georgia. The three-hundred pound Floridian "Iron" Mike McCord has been successful in New York, and he feels he can do the same in Georgia. Very few men equal Bill Watts in strength and size, but Paul Jones feels that Mike McCord fits that description and that he will be a natural to put against Watts. The match reminds the viewer of the old mid street showdown gunfight in any number of western movies. The young gunslinger trying to make a name for himself in the town by taking on the older lawman who many of the townsfolk felt may have finally met the man who was just a little faster. The match was basically a show of strength for each man but it ended with Watts declared the winner. At least the young McCord didn't end up on boot hill.

With his win over McCord, Watts demands that Promoter Paul Jones sign Bob Armstrong to meet him with the North American title on the line. The match is set for December 6, 1974. A sell out crowd is on hand at the Atlanta City Auditorium. Armstrong shows the tough Oklahoman what he's made of and successfull defends the title. On the same card Buddy colt tries to regain the Georgia title, but fails in his match with Rocky Johnson. The year 1974 ends with Armstrong defending the North American title in Atlanta against Bobby Shane. Armstrong is a winner once again and leaves the darkened auditorium to head fifteen miles north to be with his family during this holiday season. We also see Shane leaving the auditorium and heading for his empty apartment, spending this holiday night hundreds of miles from home just like most of the other men in the wrestling profession. Their work doesn't stop for Christmas and New Years.

It's now 1975, and Bill Watts decides to change his ring tactics. He wrestles the men that the fans dislike, particularly the men who are under the management of Chicago millionaire Playboy Gary Hart. On January 31st Watts wins an elimination match with Abdullah the Butcher. The winner of this match is promised a match with the North American Champion Bob Armstrong in Atlanta on February 21st at the Atlanta City Auditorium. Watts is elated, he's certain that the time is right to regain "his title" the North American Championship.

The late great Bobby Shane, pictured here with his valet Sherri, lost his life in the same air crash that injured Colt, Mike McCord, and "Playboy" Gary Hart.

The scene switches back to Florida. Bob Armstrong has one more title commitment before he faces Watts in Atlanta. It's against the man he took the title from, Buddy Colt. When the air clears that evening Buddy Colt is once more the North American Champion.

The next scene is the Georgia Championship Wrestling T.V. show. Saturday, February 15th, Watts is telling the television audience that he doesn't care if Colt is the new champion, he's signed to meet the North American Champion Friday night no matter who's wearing the belt. Promoter Paul Jones assures Watts that Colt will be in Atlanta to defend the title.....

As the next scene opens we're away from the ring and in a small country music station on the outskirts of Atlanta. The radio newsman we saw earlier at the Atlanta City Auditorium is quickly ripping news off the Associated Press wire machine to use for his Thursday afternoon four o'clock newscast. The camera is over his shoulder and we read the name plate on his desk. It reads "Jay West-News Director." The camera moves in on the newscopy, as West starts to read the story his hands start to shake. The story dated February 20th reads as follows. "Professional wrestler Bobby Shane was killed last night when his light plane crashed into waters about one mile from Tampa Bay in Tampa, Florida. Injured in the crash were wrestlers Buddy Colt and Mike McCord, and manager Gary Hart."....

Bob Armstrong first came into national wrestling prominence by winning The North American Title.

The next scene takes place Friday morning in Mike McCords hospital room as he talks to reporters about the crash. As McCord talks the sound of his voice trails off and suddenly we are inside the cockpit of the plane. The weather is terrible, Colt who is piloting the plane misjudges his landing and crashes into the water. Colt, McCord, and Hart manage to escape but they are unable to free Shane from the aircraft that has already submerged into the water. Helping each other the three men swim more than a mile to shore. The scene shifts back to the hospital where a doctor is giving reporters the conditions of the survivors. We learn that Hart has a broken back, foot and arm, and a heavy gash across his nose. McCord has broken ribs and deep cuts on the heels of both of his feet. The doctor says that McCord's feet will never again be able to support his three-hundred pound body. Buddy Colt has several broken bones and his right ankle and foot are both mangled. The doctor says that Colt's career is definitely over and that his foot will probably have to be amputated.

It's Friday night, February 21st at the Atlanta City Auditorium. Jay West and five thousand other people are waiting in their seats wondering what is going to happen. Cowboy Bill Watts moves toward the ring, and is met by Promoter Paul Jones who is holding the North American Heavyweight Championship belt. The ring announcer tells the audience that the wrestling profession mourns the loss of Bobby Shane and hopes for a speedy recovery for the other men. Some fans respond with boos, some with applause. The announcer goes on to say that it has been decided by Georgia Championship Wrestling to award the belt to Watts since he had won the right to wrestle for the title in an elimination tournament and that Buddy Colt would not be able to defend the title. Our story could end right here; the belt had passed from Watts to Colt to Armstrong back to Colt and finally back into the possession of Bill Watts. However, we follow the story a little farther to find out what happens to our principals.

It's nine months later and Bill Watts has returned with his North American belt to the Tulsa Oklahoma booking office of Leroy McGuirk. He signs to meet the man who currently holds that area's version of the title Killer Karl Kox on November the 26th, 1975 in Jackson, Mississippi. We pick up the action as Watts has his hand raised in victory and for the first time in nearly three years the North American Championship is universally the property of the big cowboy from Oklahoma.

The scene switches to a dressing room at the Atlanta City Auditorium. Gary Hart is adjusting his back brace and putting on the shirt and jacket that he would wear to the ring that night. By the expression on his face it's obvious that he is still in pain but he puts it out of his mind as he gives instructions to his latest charge Professor Tanaka. Across the hall in another dressing room Mike McCord some thirty pounds lighter is preparing for his comeback match. He's putting heavy bandages on both feet and hoping that they will hold up, but at least he's got the chance to try.

The scene shifts to Jacksonville, Florida and another dressing room. We see Buddy Colt walking with a slight limp into the room. He sits down and takes off his right shoe, we see that he has won the hardest fought battle of his life, his right foot is intact. Colt tells a man with the word "AXE" on the back of his jacket that tonight looks like another good house. The next scene is in the ring. The ring announcer introduces Larry "the Axe" Hennig and his manager Buddy Colt. Colt broadly grins and points to Hennig. The crowd boos loudly and as the camera closes in on Colt's face, we see that Colt's broad grin masks a little moisture in his eyes.

The next scene is Knoxville, Tennessee. Bob Armstrong is talking long distance with his young teenage son Brad in Marietta. Brad says that he wishes that he was with hid dad that evening when Bob defends the Southeastern Heavyweight Champion against The Stomper. Bob tells his son good night and that he'll be home soon.

Our movie wraps up with a picturesque scene of moonlight on Tampa Bay. Words appear at the bottom of the screen...."In memory of 'The King of Wrestling' Bobby Shane".....THE END.....

Of course, movies can't tell the whole story, but generally they try to end on a positive note. Bill Watts defended the North American title three more times in Georgia. The last time was on October 3rd, 1975 in a successful defense against Brute Bernard. The North American Title wasn't defended again until Ernie Ladd defended the unified championship against Dick Slater in February of 1979 at the Omni. The last time the North American Championship was defended in Georgia was on October the 19th, 1979 when Mr. Wrestling II successfully defended the title in Atlanta against King Kong Mosca.

Gary Hart made what appears to be a full recovery, however some people say that he still has psychological scars from the accident that show up in his television interviews, but never the less he is one of the most successful managers in the business today.

Mike McCord decided after a brief comeback to retire. I have heard rumors that he lost a lot more weight and that he is once again an active competitor. Who knows, maybe he is a big name masked star.

The last time I saw Buddy Colt was in December of 1979. He paid a visit to Paul Jones the night Paul held his farewell card at the Atlanta City Auditorium. I was working for Paul as his ring announcer at the time and he asked me to introduce Buddy to the audience. The older fans reacted, some with boos but most with applause. Later that night Buddy told me that he had given up management and that he had become a referee in Florida.

Of course, Bob Armstrong has become one of the major stars in professional wrestling and his son Brad has followed in his footsteps.

I'm sure Bobby Shane's memory is secure in the minds of most southern fans over the age of twenty five. Many men have tried to copy his style and mannerisms but these men are not kidding anyone when they ask to be introduced as the "King of Wrestling" because to most Georgia fans of the seventies that name belongs exclusively to Mr. Shane.

I hope that my "Part II" article on the Nort American Heavyweight Championship proves to be a good companion piece to Jim Melby's "Part I" article in issue #81 and that Buddy Colt and Bob Armstrong will be remembered along with all of the other outstanding professionals who have held that prestigious title.

HOW TO SNARE RIC FLAIR (OR THE TRAPPING OF "NATURE BOY")

Photos By Linda Churchill **By Kate Mast**

We've followed Ric Flair's career long distance via video tapes, bulletin results and correspondence for the past few years with much admiration. We were thrilled, but not surprised, when this dynamic grappler won the NWA Heavyweight Belt.

We never dreamed that the golden maned "Nature Boy", whom we had never even seen in person, would enter our lives for the period on one week and leave us with chronic headaches, high blood pressure, and a facial tic! Not to mention a husband and chickens that didn't get fed.

We had waited for an in-depth article on Mr. Flair for some time, but for some reason no one ever did one. We asked around as to why and were told, "He won't do interviews," and "You can never catch up with him." Well, he was headed our direction for a week in April, so we decided to give it a try. All he can do is say no, right?

He came in on Saturday night and it was really exciting to finally see him in person. He defended his belt against our local champion, Hacksaw Sawyer, with all the skill, aggressiveness and style that we expected.

After the matches as we waited, being plagued by rapidly multiplying butterflies, I was thinking, "What am I doing here? This man is the World Champion and I work in a gas station. He rides in a chauffered limosine and I drive a pick up. He owns a Lear Jet and I turn green at the thought of flying. He won't want to talk to me. I wish he'd get out here and tell me to take a hike so I can go home and take a Valium!"

Finally, Ric walked out of the dressing room looking immaculate and that fascinating face that, in the ring, had looked so hard, determined and dangerous had softened to an open, friendly expression that made him so much easier to approach. To our amazement, he agreed to be interviewed and pose for pictures. He said he'd be at the arena an hour early on Tuesday and we could do it then.

Tuesday night, the time can and -- no Flair. Finally he arrived, an hour late, went into the dressing room and didn't come out until nearly time for his match, even though we sent word in to him.

Ric's match that night was against "Playboy" Buddy Rose, the area's arch villian, who said that if he couldn't take the belt from Flair he would leave the Northwest. To give Rose credit, it took the World Champion to run him out.

After the matches, we were pretty disgruntled until Flair came out and explained that his ride had been late and when he arrived the promotor had wanted to talk to him and that's why he hadn't come out. Well, it sounds reasonable to me and his sincere apology soothed our ruffled feathers.

He gave us the name of his motel and his room number and told us to call him in the morning to set up the interview for that afternoon.

The next morning when we called, Ric said he couldn't do it that day as he had to leave for Seattle. Now, anyone who lives in this area knows it only takes about 3½ to get from Portland to Seattle, make that 2½ the way most wrestlers drive. But if Mr. Flair thinks it takes 8 hours, then we can only assume that he was going by covered wagon.

We also began to wonder if maybe this type of thing was why no one had gotten that elusive interview.

We expressed our disappointment that things hadn't worked out and prepared to drop the whole project, but Ric encouraged us, saying that he'd be in town for two more days and suggested that about 2 o'clock on Thursday would be good, but asked us to call and double check in the morning, -- Dangling the carrot in front of the donkeys!

Thursday morning we rang his number with high hopes and only a mild headache, but there was no answer. We continued to call right up to two, when he finally answered and told us that since we hadn't called, he'd made other plans, so sorry! When we explained that we HAD called, and called and called, he decided that the phone must have been out of order, so sorry. But now he had other plans so we can't do the interview today.

Oh yeah! ?! Well, two can play this game!

WE: I'm sorry, Ric, your phone is really on the fritz! I can't understand what you're saying.

HE: We can't do it today. Call me tomorrow.

WE: Gee, Ric, Your voice is all garbled and I can't understand you. Can we come over and discuss this with you?

HE: I'm just going to jump in the shower to get ready to go out.

WE: Gee, I can't make out a word you're saying. We'll be there in five minutes, OK?

HE: OK, OK.

We were there in four minutes and Ric greeted us good naturedly. He agreed that he did have a few minutes and would answer a few questions for us. Flair was very cooperative as he told us about his background and early career and shared his feelings about being the World Champion. He didn't have time for pictures though, but made an appointment to have some taken at one o'clock on Friday, but "Call me in the morning and double check." Here we go again!

Friday morning no one answered his phone, (gee, it must still be out of order) so we, after swallowing a handful of stress vitamins, showed up at one. We were told that he was sorry, but "call me around four, I may be able to do it then, OK?"

We consider that trip only half wasted.

He never did find time for the photo session.

Thru all our contact with Mr. Flair,

The referee called for a break on the ropes when "Nature Boy" Ric Flair trapped "Playboy" Buddy Rose in a corner.

we were impressed with his polite and gentlemanly manner. His demeanor was friendly and considerate during the interview, and on the phone and also as he explained why he was standing us up and arranging a time that would be convenient for him to stand us up the next day.

How would Lou Grant's Rossi and Animal have handled this situation?

The NWA Heavyweight Champion Nature Boy Ric Flair makes his home in Charlotte, North Carolina. Since he's held the belt, he's been traveling more than he's been home. He spends his free time on the road sightseeing, shopping and training.

His training routine consists of twice a week work outs with the weights, concentrating on reps for endurance, and doing between 500 and 1000 Hindu squats a day, also for endurance.

Flair is divorced and has two children, a daughter aged 8 and a son aged 3. He says he's looking for a woman that makes $100,000.00 a year!

Ric enjoys rock and roll, country rock, and country music and named Waylon Jennings as one of his favorites.

Asked where he likes to spend his vacations, he named Florida, Hawaii and Las Vegas, with the requirement that it be warm.

The flamboyant "Nature Boy," with his white blond hair, his variety of expensive velvet feathered and sequined robes, his arrogant attitude, flashy lifestyle and explosive ring style, has always attracted the attention of the fans. Especially now that he is the World Champion, Flair is recognized everywhere and is constantly in the limelight. He says it doesn't bother him to be approached by fans, in fact, "I love it!"

Flair was born on February 25, 1951 with the proverbial silver spoon in his mouth. The only child of a doctor and his wife, he was given everything he wanted. This seems to be the root of his "I deserve everything" attitude. He says, "Whatever I couldn't buy in life, I took!" His wealth didn't help him much in his wrestling career, as he feels he had to work harder to prove that his moneyed background hadn't gotten him where he was, that it was his skill and determination.

His father took him to many sporting events and to the wrestling matches "by special request" from the youngster. Ric said his father has encouraged him in his athletic endeavors all his life.

In high school he was all state in wrestling twice and all state running back in football in his senior year. He continued both football and wrestling at the University of Minnesota. His college education ended his sophomore year.

Flair was schooled in pro wrestling by Verne Gagne and Billy Robinson the year that Greg Gagne, Bob Bruggers, Jim Brunzell and Ken Patera went thru the same training.

His first match was in January of 1972 in Wisconsin against George (Scrapiron) Gadaski. They wrestled to a ten minute draw and Ric said he was totally exhausted afterwards. Aside from the physical wear and tear, the young Flair was emotionally wiped out by "first time" nerves and the fact that his family and friends were there to see him prove himself. Ric was very proud to have held the veteran grappler to a draw.

Does he still get nervous before a match? Yes, every time. "The night I don't get nervous before a match is the night I'd better stay home!"

Like all rookies, Flair started in preliminary matches, but it wasn't long before his fierce determination and competative style caught the attention of the fans, promoters and other wrestlers. Determined to move up fast, he went to the Mid Atlantic area and cut his wrestling teeth on the big names in the business, including the Funks and the Briscos.

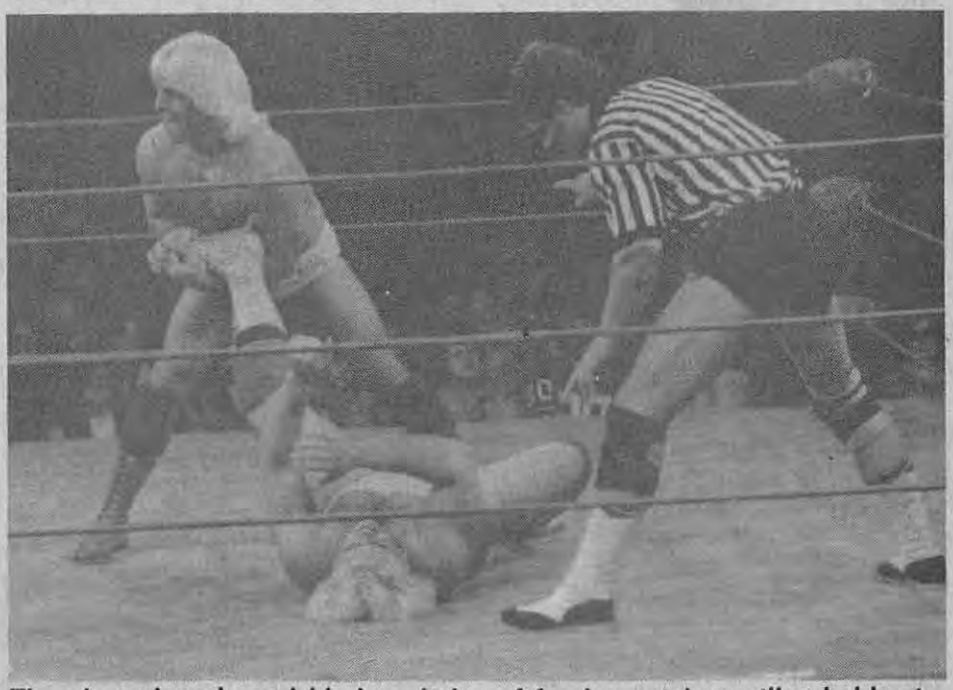
Ric's very first year as a pro, he showed a talent for collecting belts as he won the Mid Atlantic T.V. Championship and thn the Mid Atlantic Tag Team Belts with Rip Hawk. It wasn't long before he won the Mid Atlantic Heavyweight Championship and then the Mid Atlantic Tag Team Belts with Rip Hawk. It wasn't long before he won the Mid Atlantic Heavyweight Championship from the legendary Wahoo McDaniel.

In 1975 his meteoric rise in the ranks was nearly ended in an airplane crash near Wilmington, N.C. In this accident Johnny Valentine was permanently crippled, Bob Bruggers was seriously injured and Ric Flair suffered a broken back, broken ribs and internal injuries. He was out of wrestling for six months but never considered giving it up. Again that fierce determination showed itself. He says that his back still bothers him occasionally when the weather changes.

Mentioning that Harley Race was another Champion that had overcome great physical obstacles, we asked Ric if he felt that "adversity breeds strength and determination" and if he felt it was a factor in his becoming the World Champion. Flair told us that he didn't think so, that if it hadn't happened "I'd have been the Champion a lot sooner!"

Flair returned to active wrestling after his recuperation period with a vengence! He was making up for lost time, aiming for the top and not caring who he had to go through or what he had to do to get there!

Nature Boy watchers, who had always admired his unwavering determination and superior wrestling skills, began to see another side of Ric as his ego started to emerge. He began wearing his collection of magnificient robes into the ring and made known his "nothing but the best" and "first class only" lifestyle. He was giving the fans a taste of the flash and glamour that is the real Ric Flair. He'd always known who he was and where he was going and now, in his awesome arrogance, he was making sure that everyone else knew it too.



The champion showed his knowledge of fundamental wrestling holds at points during the match, here he used a Japanese leg-split.

Flair's formidable wrestling ability, coupled with his disregard for the rules won him match after match and, as his career skyrocketed, so did his ego. His roughshod tactics and vocal conceit began to rankle some of the top fan favorites and over the next three years Flair was involved in some terrific feuds with the likes of Wahoo McDaniel and Ricky Steamboat.

In 1976, Ric got his first taste of being a world champion when he and another up and coming young powerhouse named Greg Valentine won the NWA World Tag Team Belts from Ole and Gene Anderson.

The many similarities of Flair and Valentine made their team impressive in both image and action. They were both young, blond and well built. They were both equipped with extensive wrestling skills but were prone to ignoring the rules, and both favored using the figure four leglock. They also shared a high opinion of themselves and an ambition to make it to the top regardless of who they stepped on in the process. Of the two, Flair was slightly more flamboyant, while Valentine seemed to be the more sadistic.

The team worked well together and proved unbeatable, reigning for nearly two years. They were never beaten. On October 31, 1978 they were stripped of the belts because they had not defended the belts within a specified time period.

A tournament was held and the new World Tag Team Champions were Paul Jones and Ricky Steamboat. They subsequently lost the belts to the Anderson brothers who, in turn, lost them on April 28, 1979 to Paul Jones and Baron Von Raschke.

After being stripped of the belts, Greg left the area and moved to the WWF to challenge Bob Backlund for the W.W.F. Championship.

Flair stayed in the Mid Atlantic, carrying on a feud with Baron Von Raschke that produced a variety of heated single matches, including a lights out match.

Ric also tried teaming with various partners, including Big John Studd, in his quest to relieve the Baron and Jones of their Belts.

Finally, deciding that the best partner in the area would be his old arch enemy Ricky Steamboat, Flair approached him and, although the Steamer was sceptical, he agreed. This proved to be an exciting and dynamic combination and although they never achieved their goal of winning the world tag belts, the partnership did bring Flair the trust and friendship of many of his former foes and plant him firmly on the good guys side of the fence.

We asked him about his apparent change of attitude. He explained to us that his attitude and style had not and has never changed. He said that at the time in question the only thing that changed was who he was wrestling against. As far as the fans cheering him, he'd always said that he was the best and "the people just realized that what I'd been telling them all along was the truth!"

In the summer of 1979, the Nature Boy teamed with Black Jack Mulligan to take another crack at Jones and Von Raschke. They won, but victory was short lived, as they only held the belts for two weeks before losing them back to Paul and the Baron.

January of 1980 saw tempers flaring between Buddy Rogers and Ric Flair over who was the real "Nature Boy" and who had the better figure four leglock.

The feud grew to include Jimmy Snuka, who, under the management of Rogers, had jumped the fence to become a rulebreaker. Snuka and Flair burned up the mats as their hatred for each other got hotter and they engaged in fence matches, lumberjack matches, cage matches and Texas Death matches in their attempts to demolish each other.

Buddy Rogers, due to an injury courtesy of Flair, turned over Snuka's management to Gene Anderson, who continued to build his stable of rulebreakers with Ivan Koloff, Ray Stevens and The Iron Sheik.

The spring of 1980 saw Greg Valentine return to the Mid Atlantic area. He was surprised to find Ric in the fan favorite dressing room and made many attempts to bring Flair back over the fence with talk of teaming again and regaining former glory. He finally offered to go good and team with Ric, but proved to be untrustworthy, sparking one of the bloodiest, most brutal feuds ever between former friends.

On April 20, 1980, Ric won the U.S. Heavyweight Championship belt from Jimmy Snuka. July 26, he lost the belt to Greg Valentine, but regained it four months later in November.

By the end of 1980, the Flair - Valentine feud has expanded to include Rick Steamboat seconding Ric and Roddy Piper backing up Greg.

Rowdy Roddy Piper brought himself to the front lines of the war when he defeated the Nature Boy on January 27, 1981 via a very controversial pin for the U.S. Belt. Flair told us, "I hate to say it, but he hit me with a foreign object."

Not only did Piper take Ric's title using underhanded tactics, but the "fastest mouth in wrestling" continued to add insult to injury by making unkind remarks about Flair's nose and wearing a T-shirt into the ring that said "I Scare Flair!" Ric retaliated by stealing one of the Scotman's kilts and wearing it into the ring. He also was seen wearing a T-shirt that said "Blow it out your Bagpipes!"

This explosive situation erupted in many bloody and brutal battles between the two closely matched competitors.

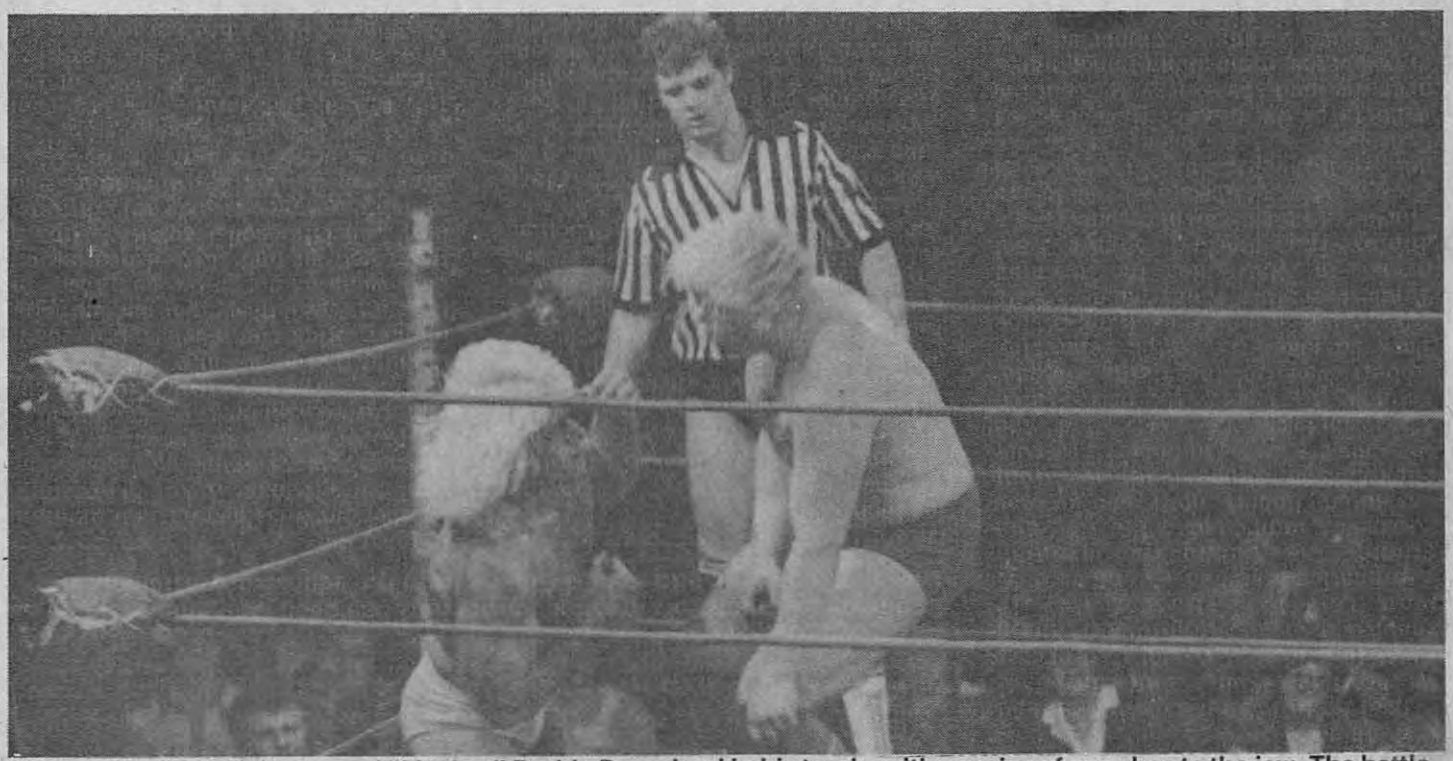
Finally, Piper, growing tired of defending against the tenacious Flair, began hinting that anyone who could put Flair out of wrestling would be handsomely rewarded. Ivan Koloff tried to collect on the offer but only succeeded in becoming the target of Ric's rage.

In July, the bounty on the Nature Boy was nearly paid, when, during a cage match between Flair and Koloff, Ole and Gene Anderson entered the cage and locked the door behind them so no one else could enter. They brought a steel baseball bat and a length of chain with them, and the three villians hung Ric upside down by his leg in the corner and took turns beating him to a bloody pulp with the bat and chain. The other two beat back Steamboat and some others who were making repeated attempts to enter the cage over the top to come to Ric's aid. Finally, the Andersons unlocked the door and left the arena, still brandishing their weapons, and an unconscious Flair was rushed to the hospital. A few days later, on TV, Ric showed his swollen, discolored face, and carrying his own steel baseball bat, swore revenge. The war raged on!

Thru the last five years, Flair had rated in the top contenders for the NWA World Championship. All thru his ring wars in the Mid Atlantic he kept one eye on his ultimate goal, the NWA World Belt. He says, "Long before I became the Heavyweight Champion, I was destined to be the Champion! Race ducked me, everybody ducked me, nobody wanted anything to do with Ric Flair. But I told the whole world that when the day came that I got in the ring with the World Champion, that I would win this and it would be mine as long as I wanted it to be!"

Even though Ric feels that Race was avoiding him, they did meet in several titanic battles for the belt with most of the bouts ending in one hour time limit draws, disqualifications and count outs. Flair stayed hot on Harley's trail until the Champion lost the belt to "The American Dream" Dusty Rhodes on June 21, 1981.

The Nature Boy got a title shot against the Dream, but says of this first encounter "I made some mistakes." The next time, September 17, 1981, he was ready for the all out barroom brawling style of Rhodes and, after 23 minutes of fast and furious action, upended Dusty with a suplex and then pinned him to become



"Nature Boy" Ric Flair stopped "Playboy" Buddy Rose dead in his tracks with a series of punches to the jaw. The battle between the two blond grapplers for the N.W.A. Title was a wild and wooly affair from start to finish.

the new NWA World Heavyweight Champion!

Ric Flair has reached the ultimate goal in Professional wrestling. He says, "I'm the World Champion, the greatest athlete alive!" When we asked how being the World Champion, with the prestige and money (reported to be over $500,000 a year) has changed his life, he told us that it hasn't changed at all, that he's always had money and being the Champion is only what he deserved all along!

"I'm the most finely conditioned athlete in all of wrestling." He states on a publicity tape, "I'm a tremendously wealthy man and can have any women I want! I live a life style never ever equaled by any other man! I wear the finest clothes, drive the biggest cars and date the most beautiful women in the world!"

The only change Ric seems to have made in his life due to owning the "ten pounds of gold" belt, is the amount of his traveling to defend it. His manager books his tours for him and the last tour ran for seven weeks, then one week home and then back on the road again. "I've traveled all over the world, and I've defended successfully everywhere!" He's been to Japan, Puerto Rico, Canada and all over the United States since winning the belt. He's faced threats to his reign from Harley Race, Dusty Rhodes, Tommy Rich, Roddy Piper, the Von Erich's, Jack Brisco, Ivan Koloff, Wahoo McDaniel, Sgt. Slaughter, Austin Idol, Ole Anderson, Mr. Wrestling II, Rick Steamboat, Rocky Johnson, Buddy Rose and countless others in his travels.

Asked for his opinion on some of the top competitors, Ric labeled "The American Dream" Dusty Rhodes "not a wrestler. He's a brawler. He's not in shape." About Harley Race he used phrases like a "great technician, tremendous ring experience and know-how." Tommy "Wildfire" Rich he considered to be "lucky" to have held the belt for even a few days. He gave Rich credit for being a world class competitor, but "just not in my class." "Rowdy" Roddy Piper he considers as "good. He knows what he's doing. His body may not look like it, but he's in very good condition."

Flair spends a lot of time watching matches and studying his competition and he considers all these men to be among the best in the business, but isn't worried, as he said, "I'm the toughest piece of work in the history of professional wrestling and will be for a long, long time! Diamonds are forever!"

We asked Flair if he'd thought about meeting the AWA version of the World Champion Nick Bockwinkel or WWF version Bob Backlund in the ring to settle the controversy as to who is the real World Champion. Ric said that "there is no controversy! They are regional champions." He considers both of them great athletes and if they would like to challenge him he'd be happy to wrestle them. But in his opinion the NWA covers more of the world than the AWA and WWF together, so he feels that there's no question about it, "I am THE World Champion!"

"The Nature Boy" Ric Flair is possibly the most flamboyant, flashy, arrogant and egotistical World Champion ever! He is also well able to back up everything he says with action! Having been on both sides of the rules fence, he has the skills to handle any style wrestler that comes his way. He has a firm grasp on the principles of hold - counter hold scientific wrestling, with his dreaded submission hold the figure four leglock as his favorite finisher. But Flair can also get down and dirty and mean and nasty with the worst of the brawlers.

He says that he goes in the ring with two things in mind. First, to keep his belt and second, to win -- in that order. Defending the belt is different from wrestling before he was Champion in that "they have to beat me, I don't have to beat them. I go into the ring to win, but I don't have to be on the offensive all the time. I can wait until they make a mistake."

Ric describes his wrestling as "that of a man with tremendous determination and unlimited wrestling knowledge!"

In his own words, "This is Ric Flair! I'm the man! I'm the World Champion! I don't care who it is, or where it is, anytime. You get in the ring with Ric Flair and we'll find out what you're really made of!"

"Ric Flair is your World Champion! Learn to love it!! WOOO!"

JERRY BLACKWELL & SHEIK ADNANN EL KAISSEY HAVE FORMED A TAG TEAM

Photos By Bruce Krietzman **By Kathy Dowd**

Wrestling fans, in the past, have seen some mighty rough and rude bruisers come into the A.W.A. and do a lot of inhuman and cruel things to the fan favorites. Mad Dog Vachon, hurt many men, but the one that sticks out in the minds of millions is Jim Brunzell in a torrid T.V. match. The Dog and Baron Von Raschke were wrestling the High Flyers and Vachon hurt the beloved Brunzell so bad, that they had to carry him off in the arms of co-wrestlers and he couldn't even return for the second fall. Greg Gagne had to go at it alone and then he was hurt too. Bobby Duncum has injured so many wrestlers that for me to count them all would be impossible. However the two that he hurt the worst and was given the most publicity about were the father/son combo of the Gagnes. He put Verne out of action and the legend had to have surgery on his ear. The younger Gagne, Greg, wanted to repay Duncum for the incident and challenged him to a match. Duncum was a little too much, however, and Greg was sent to the hospital. Johnny Valient hurt Joe LeDuc, but LeDuc wasn't that hurt as he rushed back into the ring within a few minutes to repay that awful man for what had happened. Ray Stevens jumped onto a prone Rufus Jones during a heated match which saw Stevens return to his fearful and fearless ways of wrestling.

Two years ago, a man began wrestling in the A.W.A. that destroyed everyone in sight all the time. He told the people that he was the biggest, the best, the most boastful wrestler to ever appear in a midwest wrestling ring. Indeed, he is right. The man is big. The man is the best, depending on who is giving and who is deciding. And the man is very boastful. He will tell the people what's going to happen, what he is going to do, and nine times out of ten he tells it like it is. He also claims to be something else, that being the only true CHRUSHER in professional wrestling not, and I quote from the man himself, "a cheap, over-rated Crusher from Milwaukee who is over-the-hill, who can't do anything anymore." By now you must have realized we are referring to the one and only Jerry Blackwell, a.k.a. Chrusher, from Stone Mountain, Georgia.

Blackwell since coming into the area has destroyed many all American, apple pie, boy-next-door type wrestlers. He was walking over everyone in sight, that is until he began bragging that he was the Crusher of the area. Word reached the other Crusher and the two of them battled it out in a variety of matches. From Minneapolis to Denver to Winnipeg to Chicago, these two fought it out hammer and tongs, blood and guts, broken bones and flesh. THEN IT HAPPENED! Jerry Blackwell proved to be a little bit better than the other Crusher, and the Milwaukee man left the area and hasn't been seen or heard from since. After Crusher, came the Mad Dog and he too tried every trick in the book to stop Jerry but failed also. The Stone Mountain man hurt him so bad that he was required to retire for awhile. Will Vachon return for revenge? Only time will tell. Mad Dog promised the fans that he would get that fat man back and paid a hired assassin to get "fatwell." Baron Von Raschke tried but didn't get the job done, yet!

Since forming a tag team combination with Sheik Adnann El Kaissey, huge Jerry Blackwell has adopted a similar clothes style, to that of his friend from Baghdad, Iraq.

In mid 1981 a wrestler arrived from Iraq by the name of Sheik Adnann El Kaissey. This man has not and will not ever win any popularity contests with the fans, writers, editors, photographers or even coherts. Sheik Adnann made his presence known in the A.W.A. by attacking Tito Santana on T.V. due to improper passes, the Sheik claims, "to my Jeanie." It all happened on T.V. when The Sheik began to rough-up his lady dancer. Tito, being the gentleman he is, was disturbed about this behavior and went to the aid of the young lady. To say the least, Sheik Adnann went wild. He attacked Tito from behind and hurt him so bad they had to help him from the ring. The Sheik even clobbered him with that sword he carries into the ring with him. Poor Santana was out cold on the mat, fans were screaming for help, Wally Karbo was threatening to suspend this crazy man, and all he did was to laugh about this and mumble away in some weird

language.

From that moment on every wrestler has been gunning for the Sheik, including - would you believe? - the A.W.A. World Champion Nick Bockwinkel. The Sheik managed to arrange a series of championship matches with himself against Bockwinkel. Each match they had was like a war. There was angry and mean looking expressions on the faces of these two men. There was hate. There was the feeling of tension of two men from different countries doing battle, and most of all there was blood. I have seen Bock wrestle many different opponents, but never has this writer ever seen the champ so irrate and upset as he was with this monster man, Sheik Adnann El Kaissey. During recent interviews comments like the following could be heard from the man who holds so proudly onto the world championship.

"Sheik El Kaissey, no one draws one ounce of blood from my head or body and gets away with it. You will pay for this, if it's the last thing I do." Or if it wasn't that it was, "If you think, for one second, that you're going to take this championship that I own back to foreign soil, you are sadly mistaken. I will use whatever forces I have to keep it here. And if I must cheat, then I will. This title stays here on American soil."

Now we all know that the majority of the time Nick Bockwinkel is hated by wrestling fans all over the world. He is booed, spit upon, threatened, and even has been attacked by upset fans, but not once when he was wrestling the Sheik was he booed. Some fans even cheered him on. Deep down in their hearts the people knew, even if he was a hated man, Bockwinkel was not about to let this championship be drug through the deserts of some foreign world.

The final straw came for the fans in early 1982. The Sheik managed to buy off Crusher Blackwell and get him as a tag team partner. Lord have mercy, when the fans found this out they quickly, and altogether, disowned the Stone Mountain man.

Blackwell expressed to the people, in no uncertain terms, that he had accepted the Sheik's offer because the Iraqian offered him a deal that he couldn't refuse. There would be a lot of money rolling into the man's pocketbook since the Sheik is a wealthy man. The Sheik even gave his "New brother" a harlem of beautiful women for Jerry's pleasure. There would also be, "as much food and wine that my new brother will want to eat." Add in the fact that the Sheik is now picking up all of Jerry's business expenses and bills. The only right thing to do according to Blackwell was to accept the offer and join up forces with that most hated of hated wrestlers, Sheik Adnann El Kaissey.

After a particularly wild and bloody tag team contest, Blackwell and Sheik consoled each other. Although at this point they don't look it, they were the winners of the match.

From the moment that The Sheik and Blackwell teamed up every wrestler across the country has been gunning for them, especially Tito Santana. Tito has teamed up with many different wrestlers to battle these two.

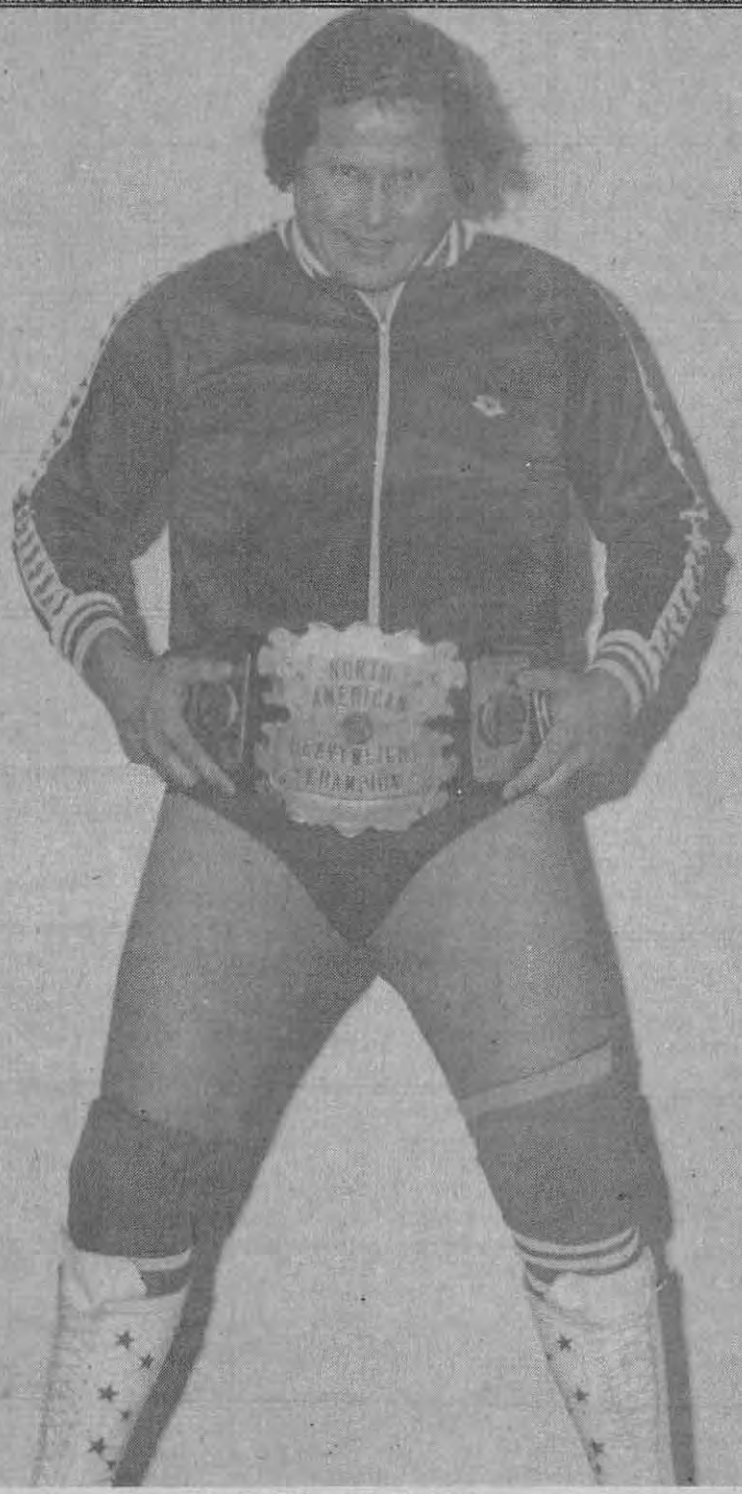
Besides all these opponents gunning for them they still have a few other things against them. They are such a brutal and bruising team that many times they have been disqualified for their actions. Once they start to pulverize their opponents they enjoy it so much, this team often forgets to stop. Of course, their actions often rile up the fans and the people hassle them to no end. To get back at the fans, Jerry and his partner will hurt the fan's favorites even more.

They do have some things GOING for them. The Crusher is a very strong and massive sized wrestler. He can, and he will, crush anything standing in his way to success. Once he backward bodyslams his opponents, Jerry has usually won the match. Then there is The Sheik and his wealth. Where there's money, there's a way as the old saying goes. Both men are experienced in the sport of wrestling. Between the two of them they have appeared in such places as Hawaii, New York, Oregon, Florida, Texas, California and Europe.

However, they still have something more important than size, money, strength, or experience and that is DESIRE TO BE THE BEST. Neither man has to worry about lacking in the confidence department. They boast frequently that they are the number one tag team (and wrestlers) in the world today. What they want, they get! Who they want, they get! How they want it, they get it! When they want it

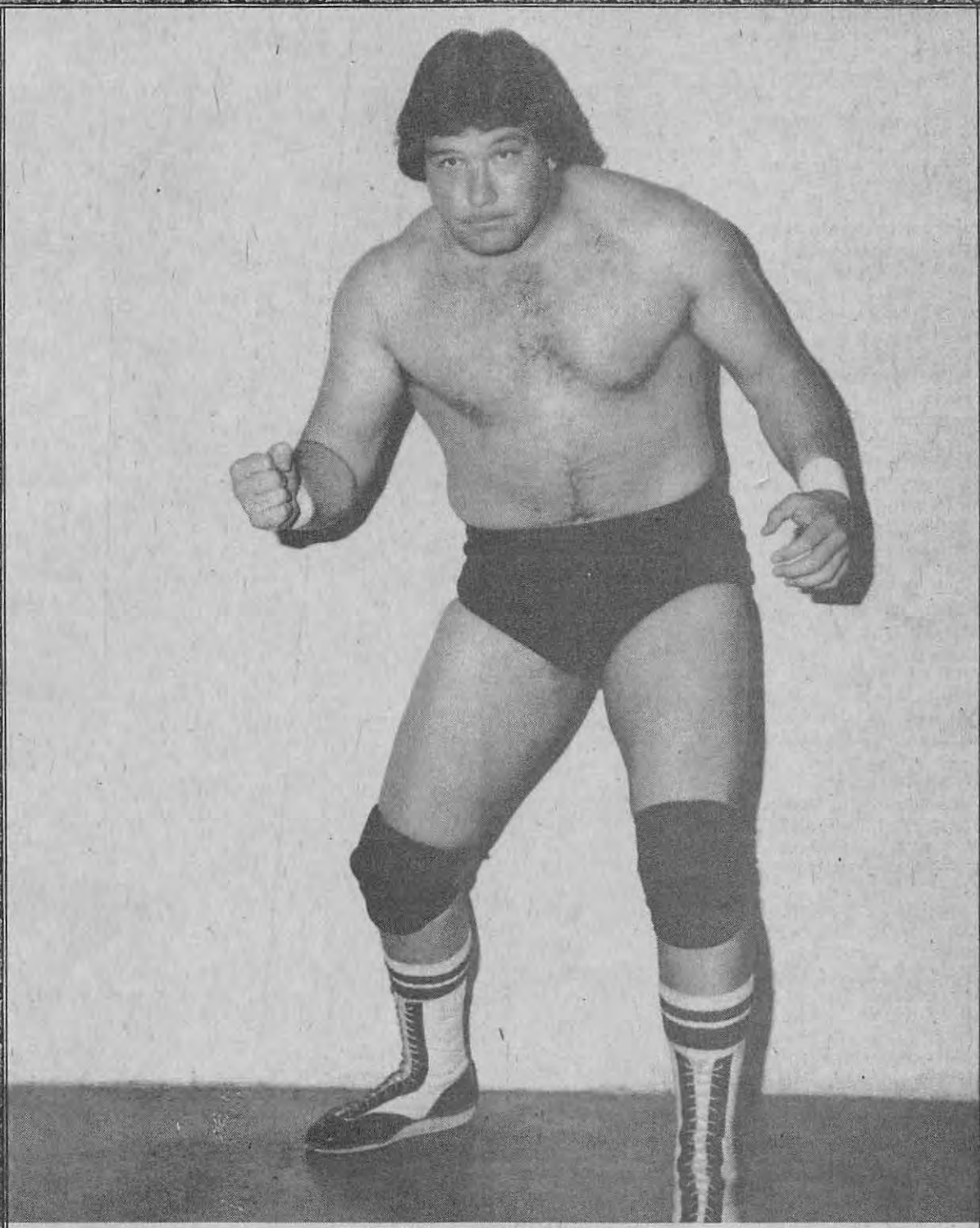
To this date they have destroyed and walked all over nearly each and every team that crosses their path. They might have to cheat to win but the fact is with each match they enter, in the long run they come out winners in some way.

Will this team become the tag team champions of the A.W.A.? Will they rip apart the Gagne and Brunzell team to shreds. Can an American wrestler like Blackwell really turn and be disloyal to his native country of the United States? If they become the champions, is it true we will never see the title or belts again? Can money buy out the A.W.A. officials for more title shots? These are only questions that can be answered in the future. As it stands now, we will just have to wait and see what happens.



BOB ROOP

(Photo Courtesy Of The Mid South Wrestling Association)



TED DiBIASE

(Photo Courtesy Of The Mid South Wrestling Association)

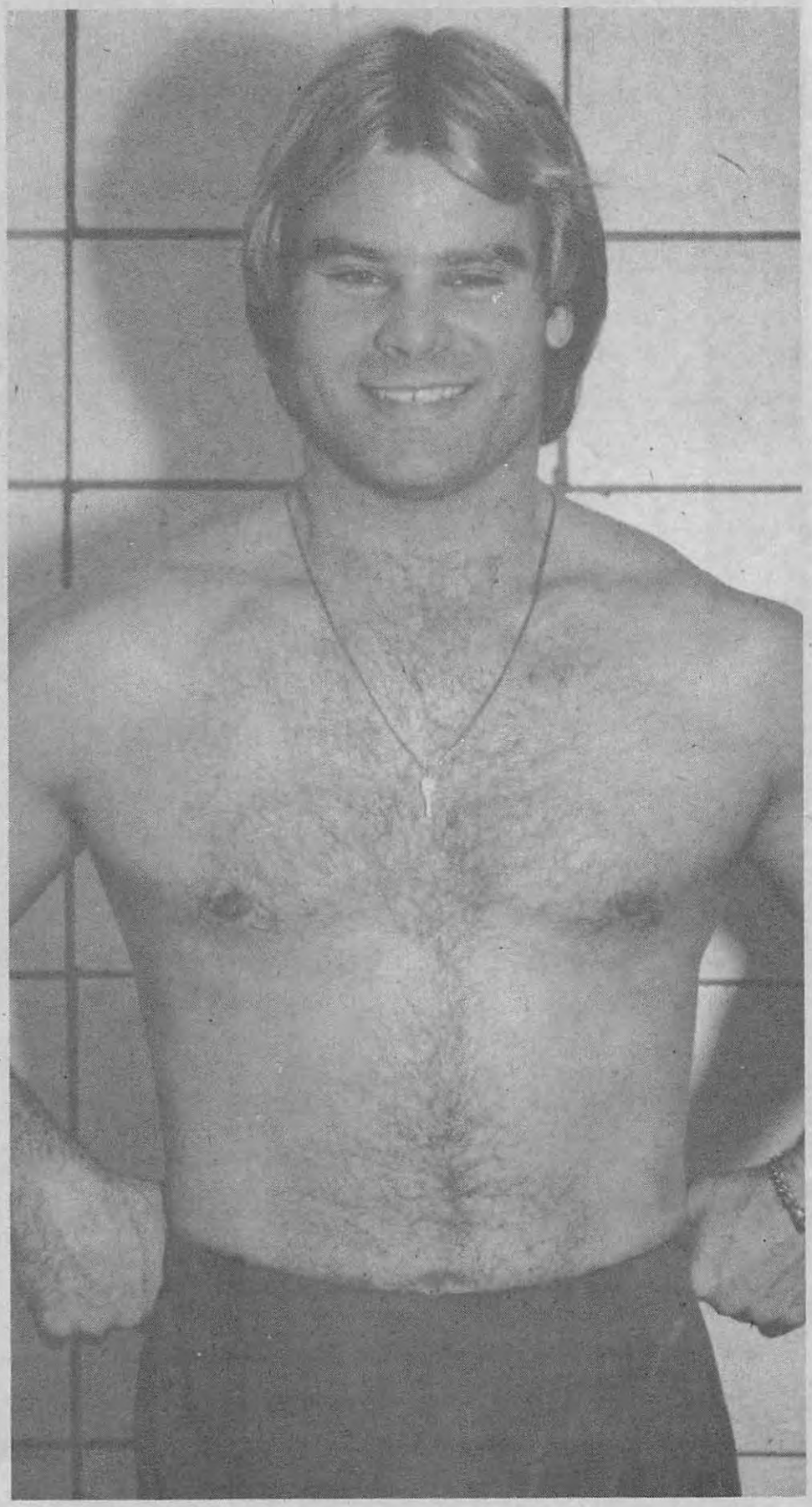
STAN LANE: YOUNG WRESTLER PROTOTYPE

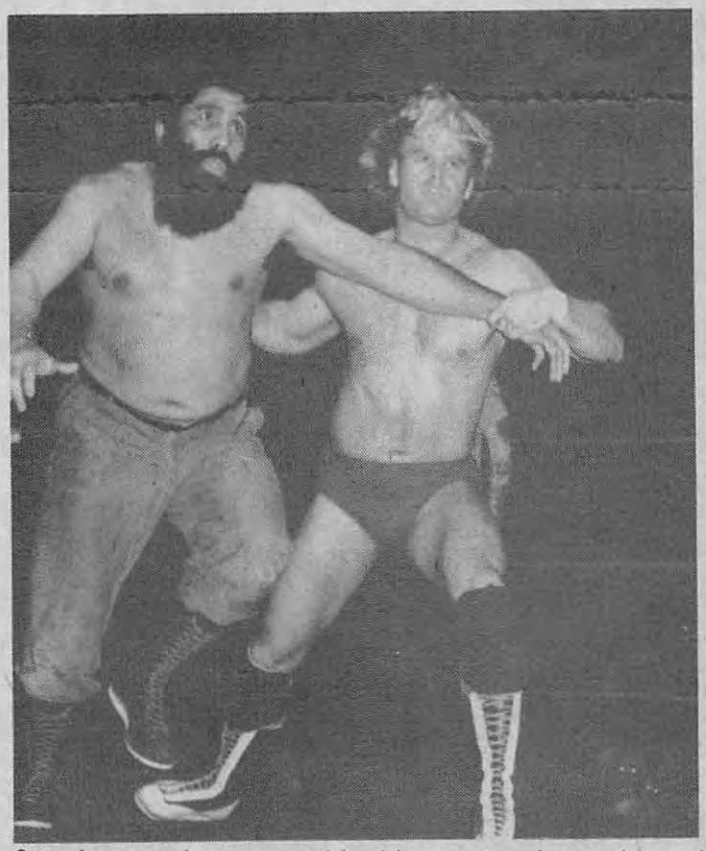
Photos By Jim Cornette **By Annette Rogers & Howard Walsdorff**

How does a professional wrestler begin his career? Where does he start? What inspires him? What qualities must he have to succeed? The answers are not the same for everyone. This is a story that presents the answers for one wrestler, Stan Lane, yet his story could well be considered the prototype for wrestlers in general.

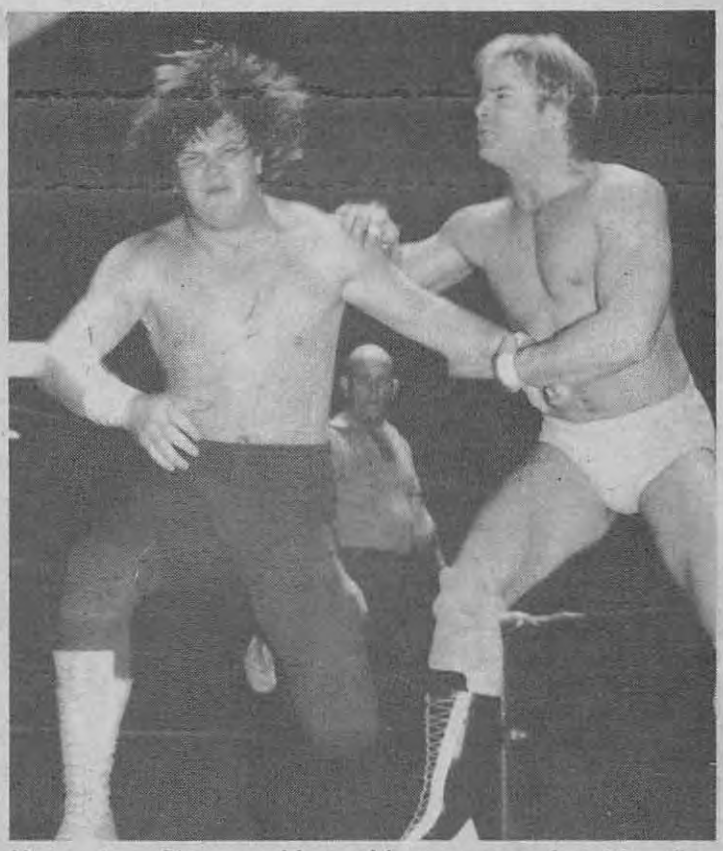
Stan Lane was born August 5, 1955, in Greensboro, North Carolina. In high school and college Stan was involved in sports such as football, wrestling and in 1975 he began to study one of the Japanese styles of karate. One day Stan saw a T.V. match with Ric Flair who enthralled him. Stan decided right then that he wanted to become a professional wrestler. Upon graduation from East Carolina University, Stan got a job as a lifeguard. Stan met Ric Flair at a beach party where Stan was working. Since Stan wanted to become a wrestler he utilized this opportunity of meeting the famous Flair. Lane convinced Flair that he (Lane) had the potential talent to achieve this goal. Lane attended wrestling cards, worked out and trained under the guidance of Flair for four months at Flair's house in Charlotte, North Carolina. Stan believe in working out with weights and consuming health foods. After training with Ric Flair, Stan Lane moved to Amarillo, Texas, for six months of additional training. Willpower, discipline, and determination were among the attributes of Stan Lane. Without these characteristics Lane would have never succeeded in achieving his objective.

In his career as a professional wrestler, Stan Lane had wrestled famous grapplers such as Kevin Sullivan, "Crazy" Luke Graham, Jack Brisco, Steve Kiern, Dick Murdoch, Dory Funk, Junior, etc. Lane wrestled in Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Florida, Missouri, Colorado, Texas and New Mexico. A professional wrestler must expect to travel a great deal and to face famous opponents in the squared circle. Stan Lane held the Florida Tag-Team Championship with Brian St. John for nine months. Stan held the Georgia Junior Heavyweight Belt for five months that he won from Kevin Sullivan in Columbus, Georgia. Lane observed Sullivan's style of wrestling and his moves in the ring, and repeatedly wrestled him to a draw before Lane's victory. In addition to physical strength, a wrestler must





Stan Lane took command in this event and armwhipped his opponent into the turnbuckles.



Here we Stan making things uncomfortable for "Beautiful" Bobby Eaton.

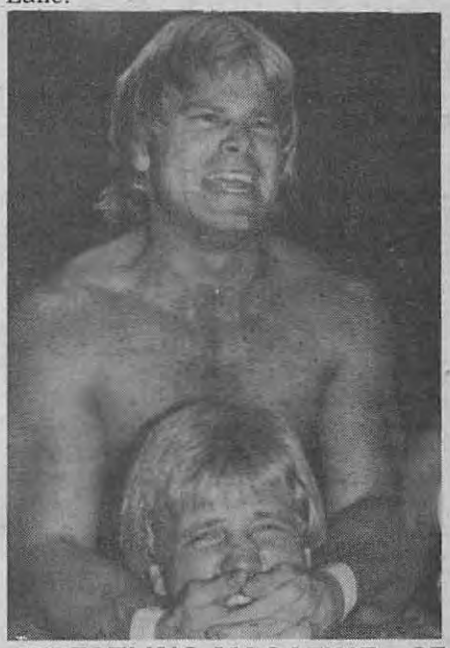
possess intelligence in order to advance in the profession. Lane proved he was intelligent and held many titles. A dynamic change had taken place in Stan Lane's career a short time after he moved to Memphis, Tennessee and territory.

In the latter months of 1981 Stan Lane was a member of Jimmy Hart's First Family of rulebreaking wrestlers in the Memphis booking region. Stan Lane and Sweet Brown Sugar (KoKo Ware) were the Southern Tag-Team Champions for quite awhile. However, Jimmy Hart was so furious at Lane for changing his wrestling style and his departure from the First Family, that Hart placed a five thousand dollar bounty on Lane! In spite of all Hart's efforts to sabotage Lane, he made a successful transition from rulebreaker to fan-favorite.

One day on "Championship Wrestling", commentator Lance Russell was interviewing Stan Lane in a TV spot when the Monk rudely interrupted them. Before the cameras, the Monk ridiculed Lane's abilities and criticized Russell for showing bias to fan-favorities. This led to a confrontation between Lane and the Monk. Special matches between Lane and the Monk resulted from the clash on T.V. Lane had a background in karate and the Monk had experience in boxing, therefore the fans were treated to special matches between these two men. In their first Memphis match the Monk proved to Lane how well he could deliver an effective left hook to the ribs. However, the Monk illegally won the match over Lane in Memphis by connecting with an overhand right with a loaded glove! However, the special matches between them continued in the area in Nashville, Memphis, Louisville, Tupelo, etc., delighting the fans. Although Lane hadn't studied Karate since August, 1977, he proved to the Monk (and the fans) how well he could deliver a spinning heel kick. Eventually, Stan Lane defeated the almost invincible Monk in these exciting series of special matches. Again this proves how a professional wrestler must possess extraordinary qualities in order to succeed.

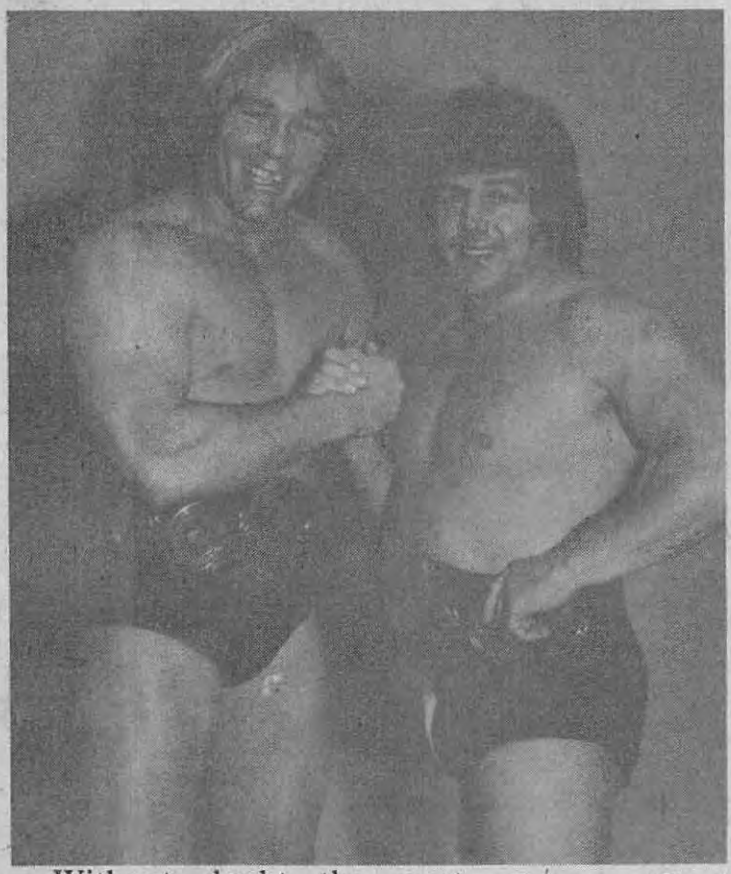
Stan's hobbies include disco dancing, swimming, surfing, old cars, girl watching, and record collecting. His record collection includes songs of groups of the 1950's and 1960's. Therefore, could it be that Jimmy Hart and his rock and roll band, the Gentrys is among them?

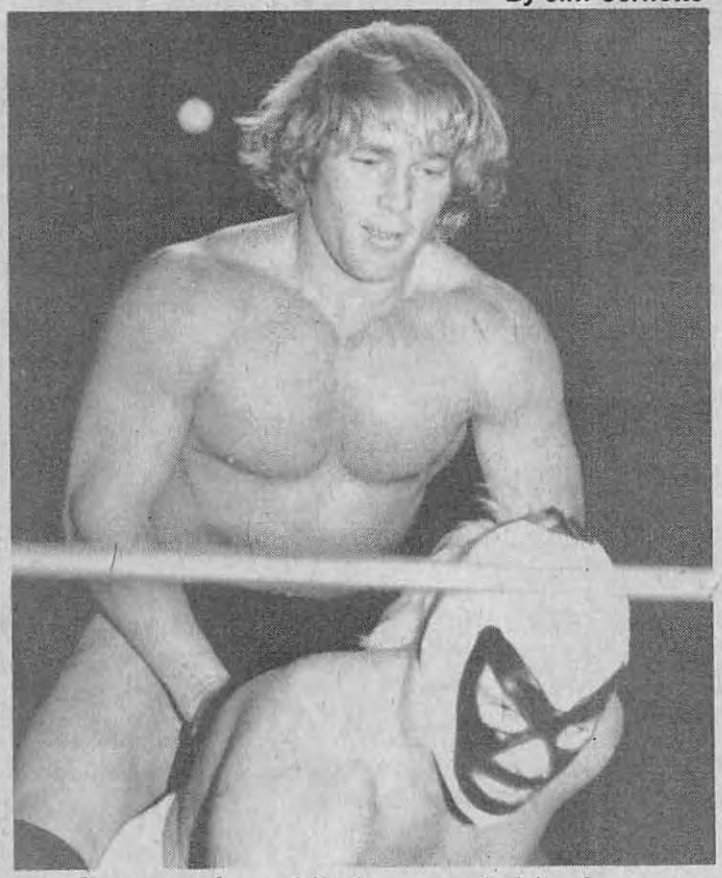
When asked about future objectives as a wrestler, Lane said, "I'd like to be the World's Champion in the Junior Heavyweight Category." Lane held the U.S. Junior Heavyweight Belt for seven months that he won from Jerry Stubbs in Mobile, Alabama, but Lane's goal to become the World's Champion in the Junior division would be a greater achievement. Knowing about Stan Lane's past achievements, he just might accomplish this feat. Ric Flair, now the NWA World's Heavyweight Champion must have seen great potential in Stan Lane when he was a lifeguard eagerly interested in wrestling. Flair was right about Lane.



DUNDEE AND KEIRN — SUPERTEAM!

By Jim Cornette





Without doubt the most popular team to appear in this area in this or any other year is the combination known as "Superteam," Steve Keirn and Bill "Superstar" Dundee. For well over four months, Dundee and Keirn held tight to the Southern Tag Team Championship, and achieved the top of the mountain in fan support.

Dundee was an old hand at holding the belts, having won the title with over a dozen different partners, but many felt that with Steve Keirn in his corner he had found his best partner ever. It was Keirn's first reign as Southern Tag Champion, but the list of titles this great Florida competitor has won all over the country would fill a page in this magazine.

Waiting and watching during Bill and Steve's title tenure, however, was the Midnight Express, Condrey, Rose and Austin. They had been demanding a title match ever since coming to the area, and finally got it. Dundee and Keirn's teamwork, though, proved insurmountable, and the Express was frustrated in their first attempt. To get a rematch, they resorted to coming out on TV and slurring Col. Richard Keirn, Steve's father, who had been a POW in Viet Nam for seven years. Calling him a coward and traitor, they attacked and insulted him and Steve's entire family until Keirn and Dundee ran out and sent them fleeing from the studio.

Keirn was more than ready to give them as many matches as they wanted, and he especially wanted Norvell Austin, who had been perpetrator of most of the insults, to start the match for the Express. Time after time, Austin left Rose and Condrey to wrestle while he seconded in the corner and avoided Keirn's attempts to get at him. Bill and Steve took some bad beatings, and lost a lot of blood, but their desire for the belts held up and they retained them through it all.

Steve realized that the only way he would ever corner Austin was to get him in a single match. He pleaded with the promoters until it was arranged, but still could not get satisfaction as Austin left the ring every time the bout swayed in Steve's favor.

After chasing Norvell for several weeks, he finally made a public challenge to him on TV to have it out man to man. Austin retaliated by saying that if Steve wanted a match, it would be only on Austin's terms. The terms were a single match, winner to get both tag belts, Steve would have to win two falls in ten minutes and the first

man to break the rules would lose the match. Steve, with support from Dundee, agreed. Minutes after they had climbed into the ring, Keirn gained his first pinfall, but Austin began stalling.

Since time was a definite factor, Steve took the match to him, forcing him onto the ropes, but on the break Austin spit in Steve's face! Steve, forgetting the terms of the match, lashed out with a right fist, was disqualified, and Austin and the Express became the new champions.

Steve was upset at himself, and had to get revenge. He persuaded the promoters to sign him with Austin in a chain match to settle it once and for all, and finally got his revenge for himself and his father. But Bill and Steve still had to regain the match. This was complicated further when the commission overturned the decision and put the belts up in a tournament, saying the way they changed hands was in no way legal and would not be allowed to stand.

Bill and Steve entered the tournament, but shortly before it the Express attacked Dundee and seriously injured his shoulder. Dundee was put out of action, and his and Steve's hopes of winning the tournament were dashed.

At press time, Bill was still unable to wrestle. But when he does come back, in addition to once again becoming top contenders for the Southern Tag Team Title, Bill and Steve will once again have a very personal score to settle with the Midnight Express.

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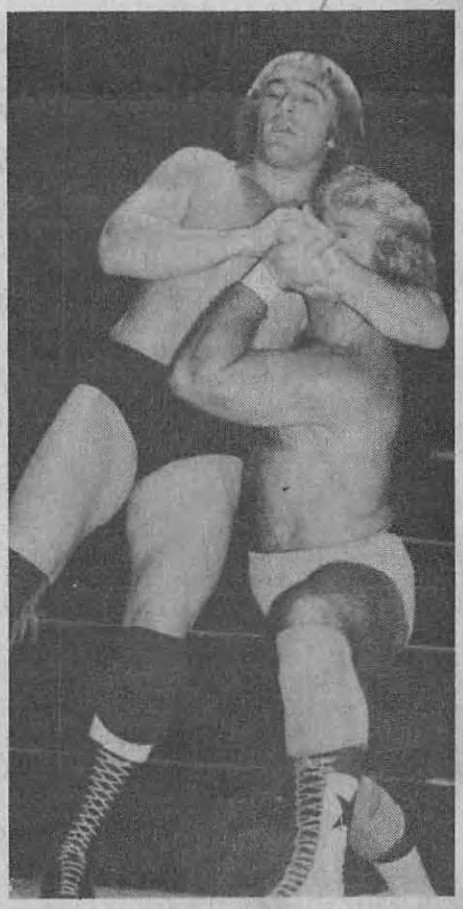
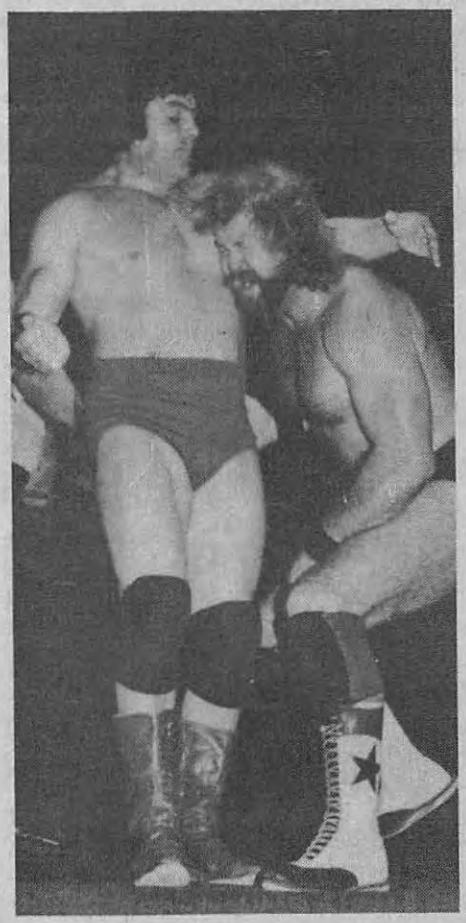
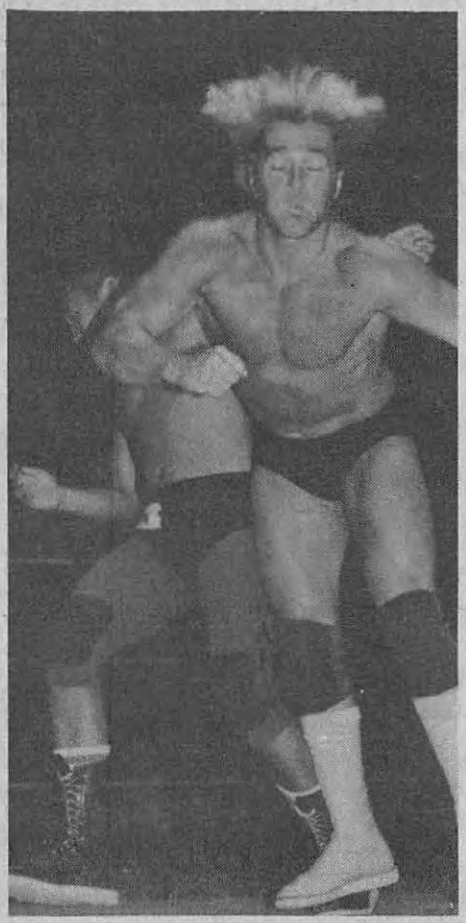


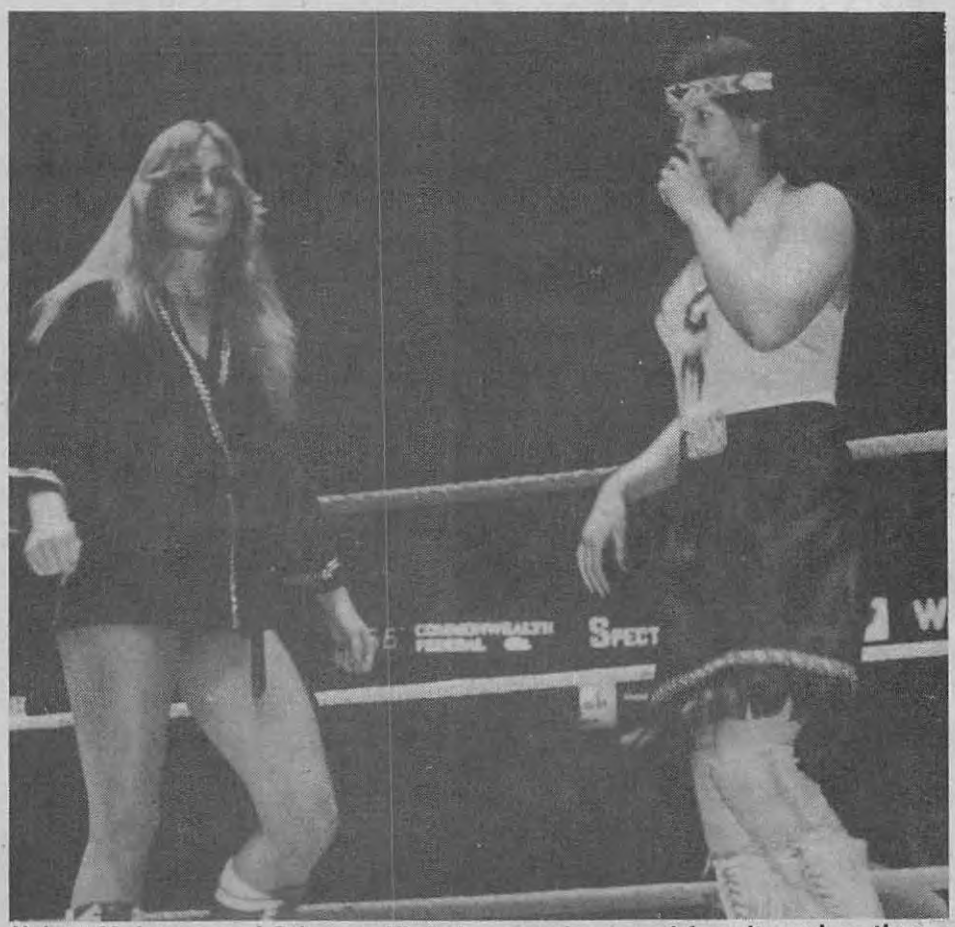




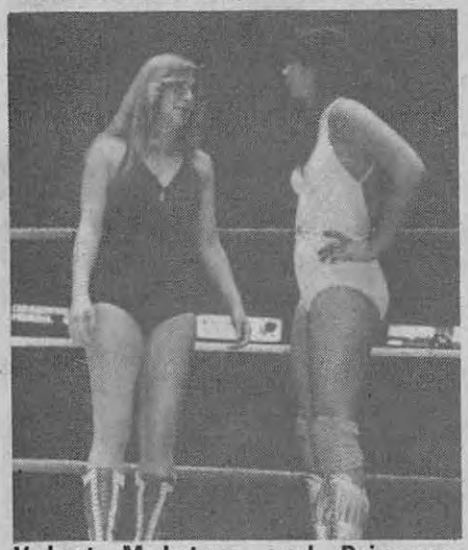
THE PHILADELPHIA SPECTRUM PLAYED HOST TO WILD LADY WRESTLERS TAG TEAM MATCH

By Joe & Ron Cunliffe

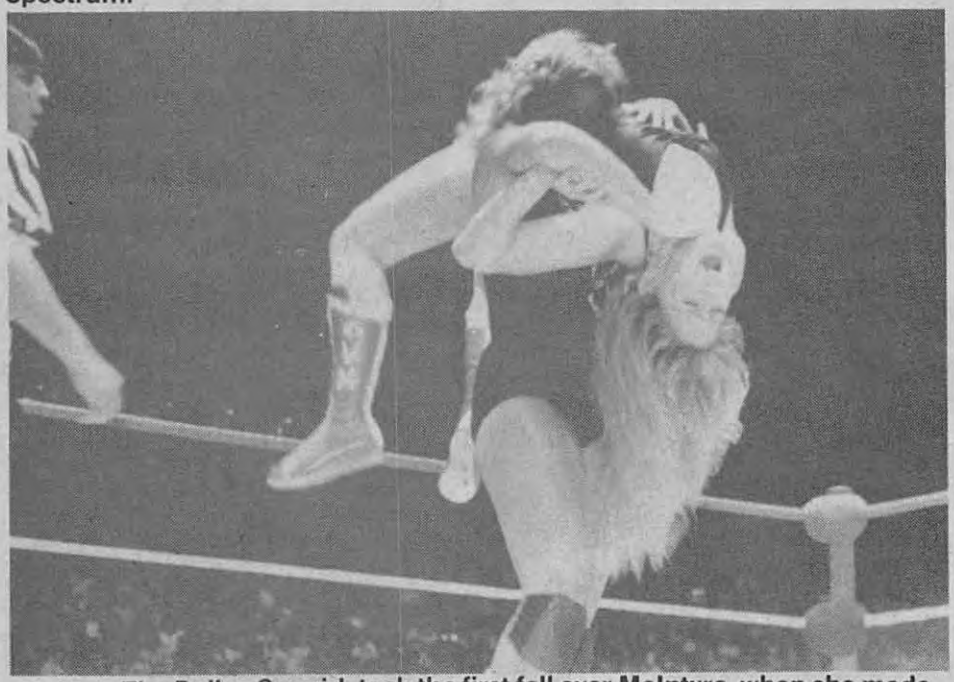
One of the recent feature matches at the Philadelphia Spectrum feature World Women's Wrestling Champion The Fabulous Moolah and her partner and protege, Cowgirl Wendi Richter, from Dallas Texas, doing battle with Velvet McIntyre from Dublin, Ireland, and her partner Princess Victoria of Victoria, British Columbia. The action was fast, furious, and aggressive, with Moolah and Richter double teaming Velvet, using the ropes to choke her and pulling her hair. The beautiful but powerful Richter first gave Velvet a neck breaker, lifting Velvet up from the ground by her neck. Then she used the backbreaker to render her opponent limp. Moolah and Richter gained the first fall. The second fall saw a turn of events as McIntyre and Victoria pummeled and flipped Moolah and Richter with a vengeance and lust for victory that was astonishing. Richter left the ring for sanctuary, but to no avail as Victoria stomped her unmercilessly. Once she got back into the ring, Velvet met her and continued the beating until Richter was pinned for the second fall. The third fall was like the N.B.A. finals with time running out and people flying back and forth across the ring. This remaining time found Victoria being judo chopped, kicked and punched by the seasoned Moolah and her protege Richter. Richter dropped Victoria throat first on the ropes, and shortly afterwards Victoria took a three count. The victors, Moolah and Richter proved again, experience is the best teacher, and Victoria and McIntyre, two unwilling pupils, learned a lesson they will never forget.



Velvet McIntyre and Princess Victoria were the crowd favorites when they wrestled The Fabulous Moolah and Wendi Richter in The Philadelphia Spectrum.

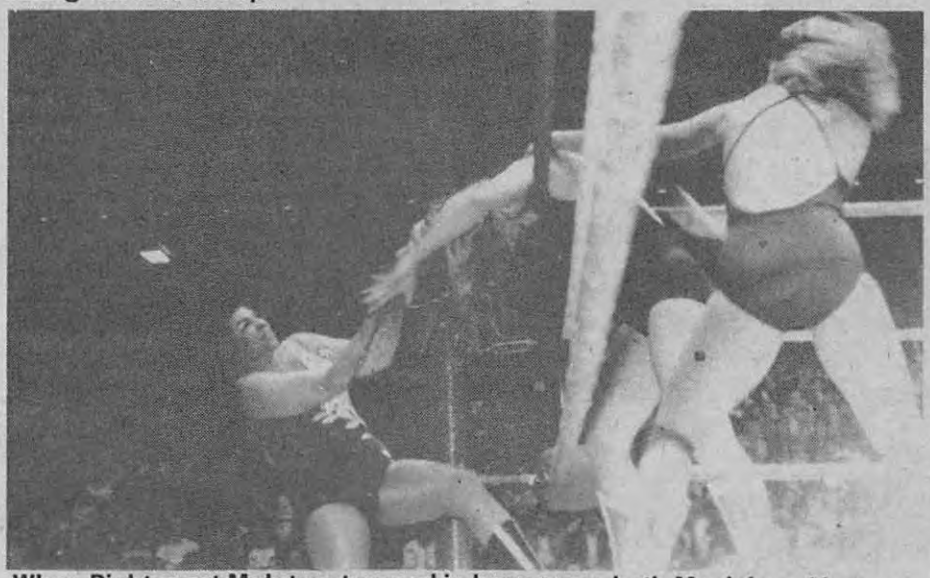


Velvet McIntyre and Princess Victoria talk over battle stradegy.



Richter, The Dallas Cowgirl, took the first fall over McIntyre, when she made her submit with a backbreaker hold.

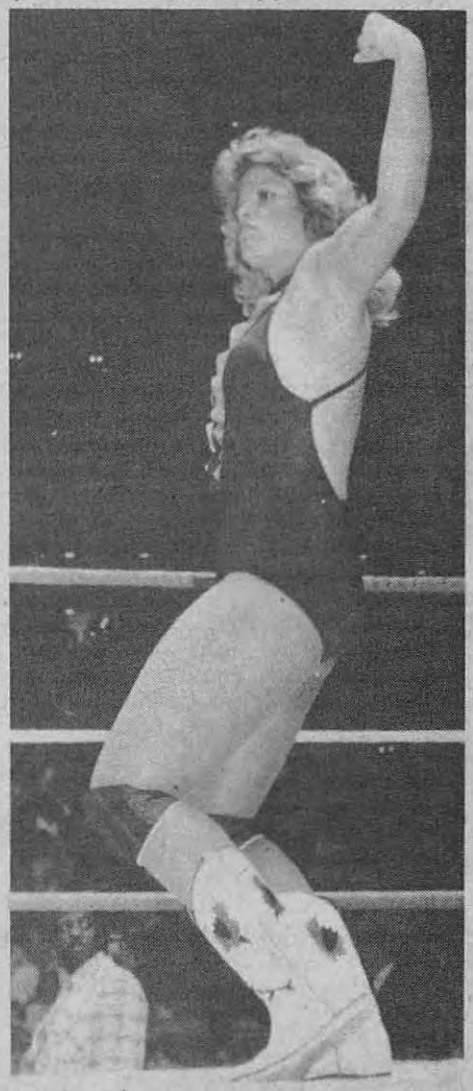
Wendi challenged Velvet to hook up in a test of strength, actually she was luring her into a trap.



When Richter got McIntyre trapped in her corner, both Moolah and her gave Velvet a working-over.

Princess Victoria was in great pain after being dropped throat first across the ropes, she was pinned moments later.

At this point The Dallas Cowgirl was grasping for breath after being pummeled by her opponents.



Wendi Richter was strutting her stuff after The Fabulous Moolah and her won the unpopular decision.

HOW JIMMY HART TRIED TO PERMANENTLY STOP RICK AND ROBERT GIBSON

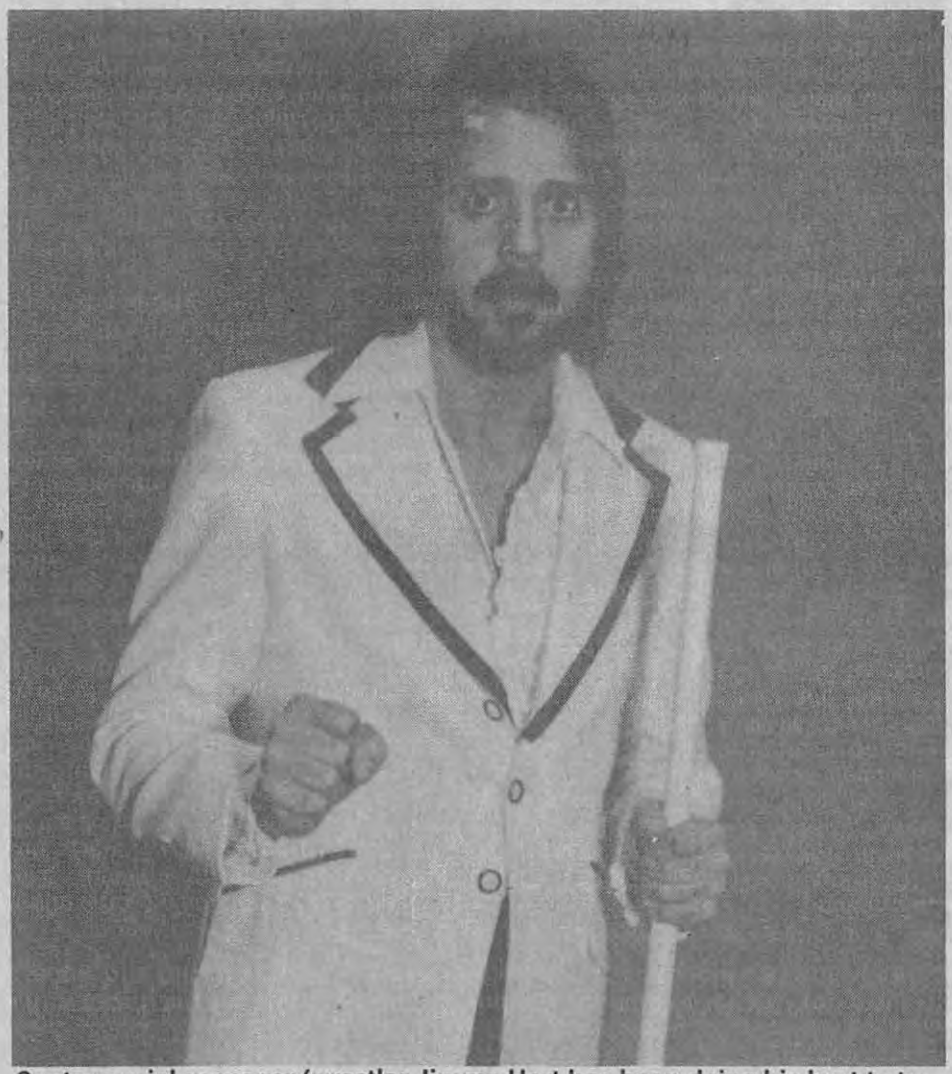
Photos By Jim Cornette **By Howard Walsdorff**

To the delight of almost everyone the day had arrived when Rick Gibson was going to return to action. While Rick was in the hospital and out of action, his brother wrestled without him. Everybody knows how well the Gibsons work as a tag-team. Therefore, everybody was most happy to see the Gibsons together again except for Jimmy Hart and his 'First Family' of rulebreaking wrestlers.

Whenever Rick & Robert Gibson had appeared together on a T.V. spot on "Championship Wrestling", generally Rick would be the spokesman for 'the Pensacola Duo'. However, this time the T.V. viewers and the Memphis studio audience not only saw Robert but heard him welcome his brother back. It was Robert who announced that since Rick and he were reunited that they would take care of Hart and 'the First Family'.

Jimmy Hart knew that Rick & Robert Gibson were capable of taking away the Championship Belts from Jimmy Hart's team of 'the Beautiful' Bobby Eaton and Sweet Brown Sugar (KoKo Ware). It was Jimmy Hart who had his men gang up on Bill Dundee and put him out of action awhile to eliminate the threat of the dynamic team of Steve Keirn and Bill Dundee. Hart just couldn't stand by now and allow the reunion of the Gibson Brothers. Hart knew that he had to do something to prevent this!

In order to understand why Hart had to resort to desperate measures, we must first look at recent past events that led up to this. After Robert Gibson won the T.V. Battle Royale Elimination Match in a Memphis T.V. studio, the Cuban and Iranian Assassins jumped into the ring and assaulted Robert until his brother Rick Gibson, although still wet from the showers, came to Robert's rescue. The rulebreakers even had the audacity to destroy the prize watch Robert won for the Battle Royale. They smashed the watch before the T.V. cameras! A week later at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds Sports Arena in Nashville, the cunning Jimmy Hart tricked referee Paul Morton. As the result of this deception Rick & Robert Gibson lost 'the losers get ten lashes' match. Bravely each Gibson took ten lashes from the winners of the match. Hart laughed over the loud speaker system but the crowd at the arena didn't find it funny. The fans strongly supported the Gibsons and the crowd admired them for their courage.



Controversial manager/wrestler Jimmy Hart has been doing his best to try and eliminate Rick and Robert Gibson from the southern wrestling scene.

"The First Family is always ganging up on us,". Rick Gibson told T.V. commentator Lance Russell. "It's never one on one", Rick continued, "it's two, three or four on one". Fans have witnessed the First Family ganging up on the Gibsons even at the Memphis Coliseum. Rick Gibson injured his sternum and was out of action awhile. Time elasped and Rick recovered and returned to action.

Rick Gibson appeared on T.V. spot with bruises and cuts all over his face (and most likely on his body too). T.V. commentator Lance Russell asked for an explanation and Rick told the story before the T.V. cameras and studio audience. In Jonesboro, Arkansas, one of the cities in the territory, Rick was driving until he was stopped on the side of the road. Rick said that he stopped his car when somebody in another car was flashing their lights at him. Rick thought it was his brother because it was raining and he couldn't see too well. After he got out of his car and started walking to the car ahead of him he saw it wasn't Robert but thought there was only one person in the car. Rick continued approaching the car to see if the person needed help. Just when he got to the car, three of them got out and started beating on him. Lance Russell asked Rick Gibson to name the men responsible for this. Rick looked into the T.V. camera and said distinctly, "Jimmy Hart, KoKo Ware and Bobby Eaton."

Later on the same T.V. program Jimmy Hart and J. R. (one of the members of the First Family) challenged Rick's brother to come out to the ring and fight the two of them in an unscheduled fight. In spite of Lance

Russell's protests, the duo got into the ring and called Robert Gibson all kinds of names to induce him to come out. Therefore, Robert came out and cleaned up the ring with them. "You wanted him and you got him!", said Lance Russell. Suddenly members of the First Family came to the rescue. Eaton and Ware attacked Robert Gibson. They busted a huge board over Robert's head and blood ran down his face! Stan Lane and Steve Keirn came to Robert's rescue. Then Bill Dundee who was a recent casualty of Hart's came to the rescue also.

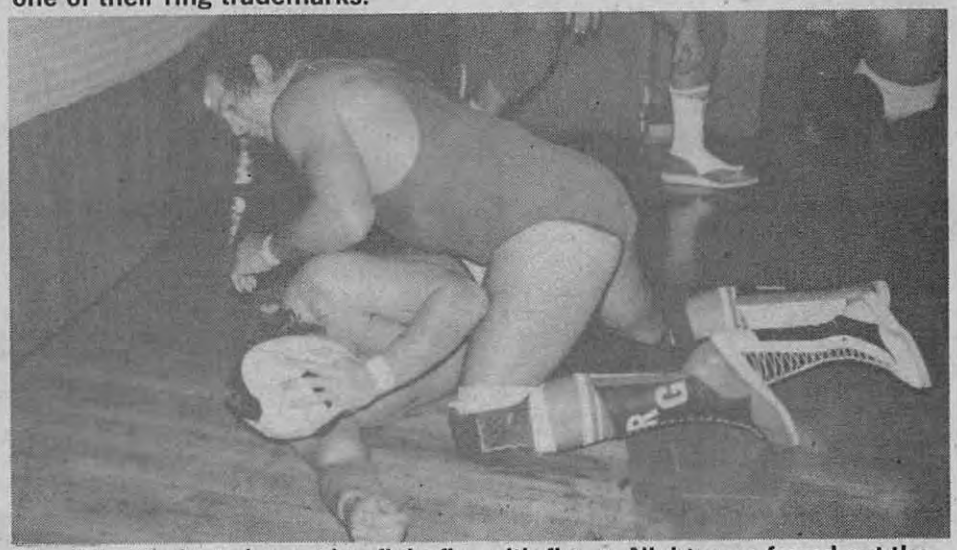
Lance Russell asked Rick Gibson if there will be a lawsuit against Hart, Ware and Eaton. "I want no lawsuit!", replied Rick Gibson. He made a fist to indicate what he wanted. "This is my lawsuit!", said Rick.

The fans love Rick & Robert Gibson. They admire their skill in the ring. They never let you down because they're always exciting to watch in the squared circle. The fans are delighted that the Gibsons are so loyal to one another. Rick and Robert are more than just partners, they are brothers in every sense of the word. In the past the Gibsons lost the belt because Rick had to wrestle two of Hart's men in a handicap match. They weren't united because Robert had to go home to Pensacola, Florida, when their mother was ill and needed one of them. Better beware, Jimmy Hart, because now the Gibsons are united. United they stand, divided they fall. United the Gibsons stand, the Firs Family may fall.

The Gibson Brothers were broken up for awhile but now are standing together in their campaign against Jimmy Hart's stable.

This reverse leg bridge has become a winning hold for The Gibsons, and is one of their ring trademarks.

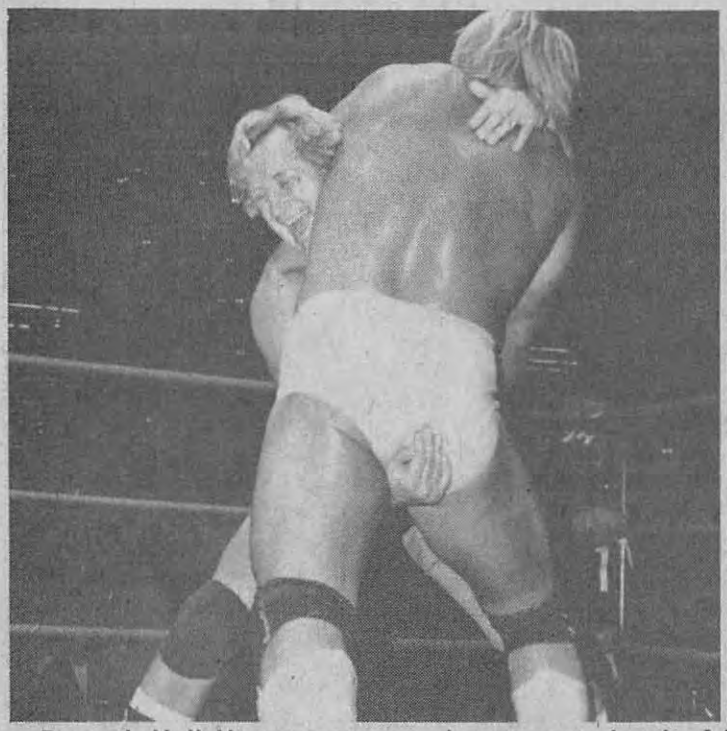
Rick tried to pull off Speed's mask during a recent match.

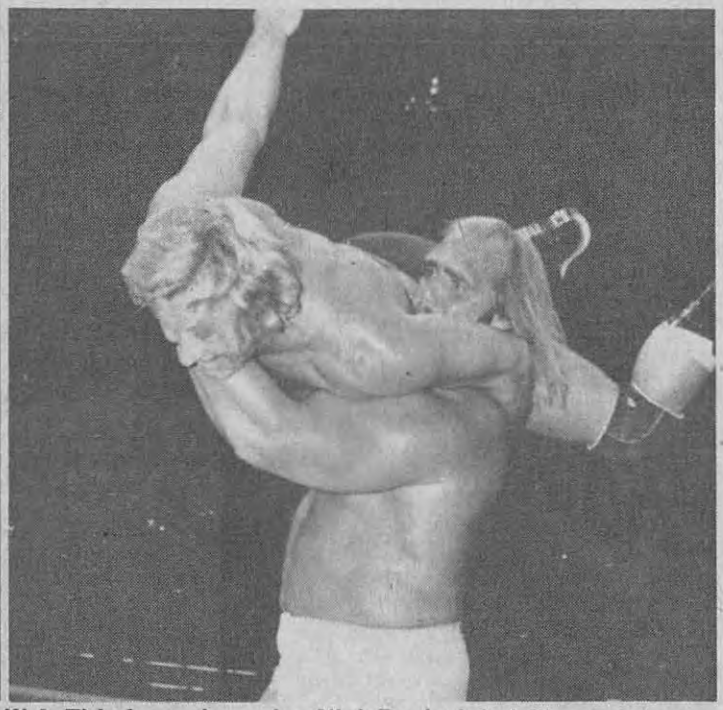


The Gibsons have learned to fight fire with fire as Nightmare found out the hard way during a recent brawl.

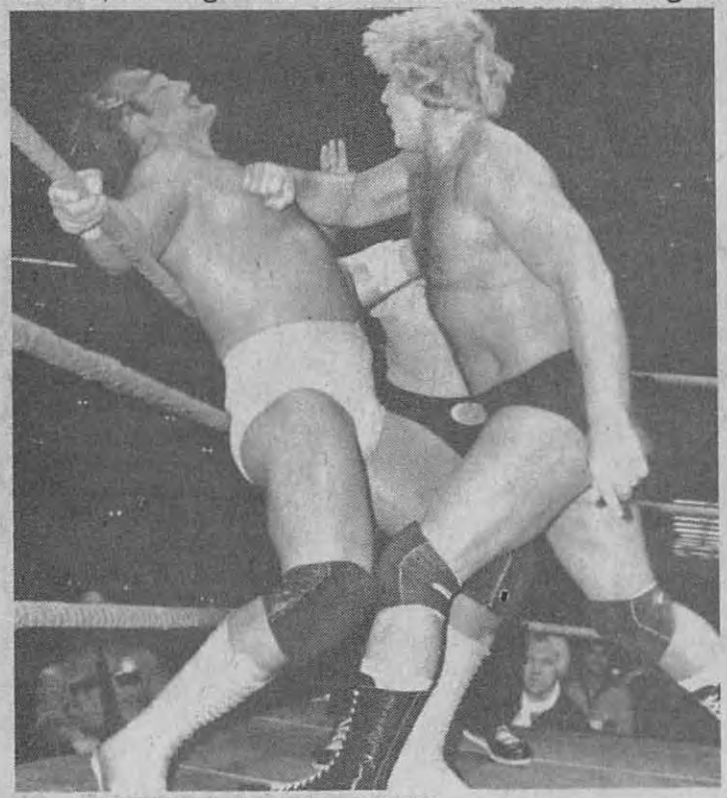
HULK HOGAN COMES VERY CLOSE TO TAKING A.W.A. TITLE FROM NICK BOCKWINKEL

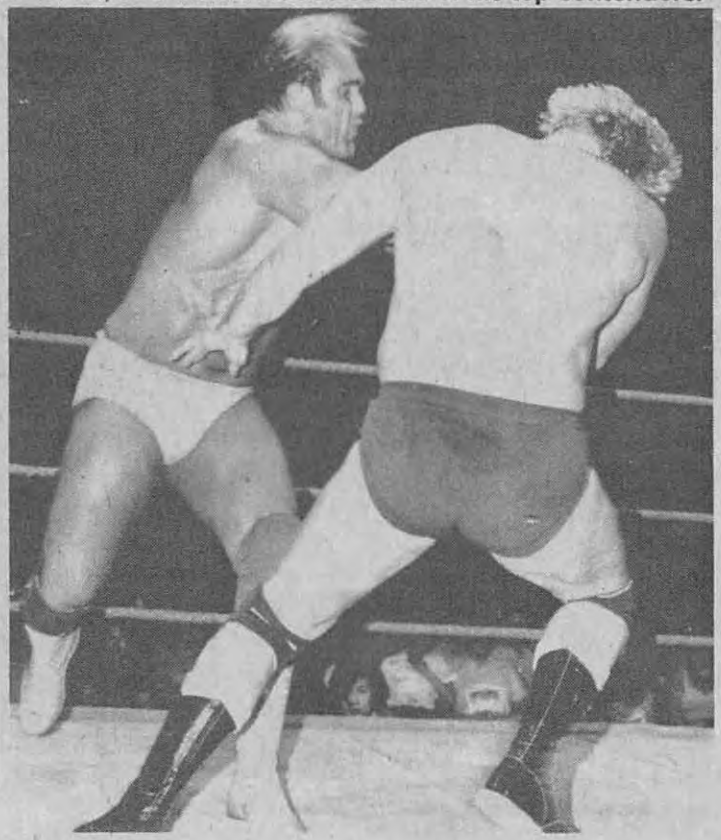
By Bruce Krietzman

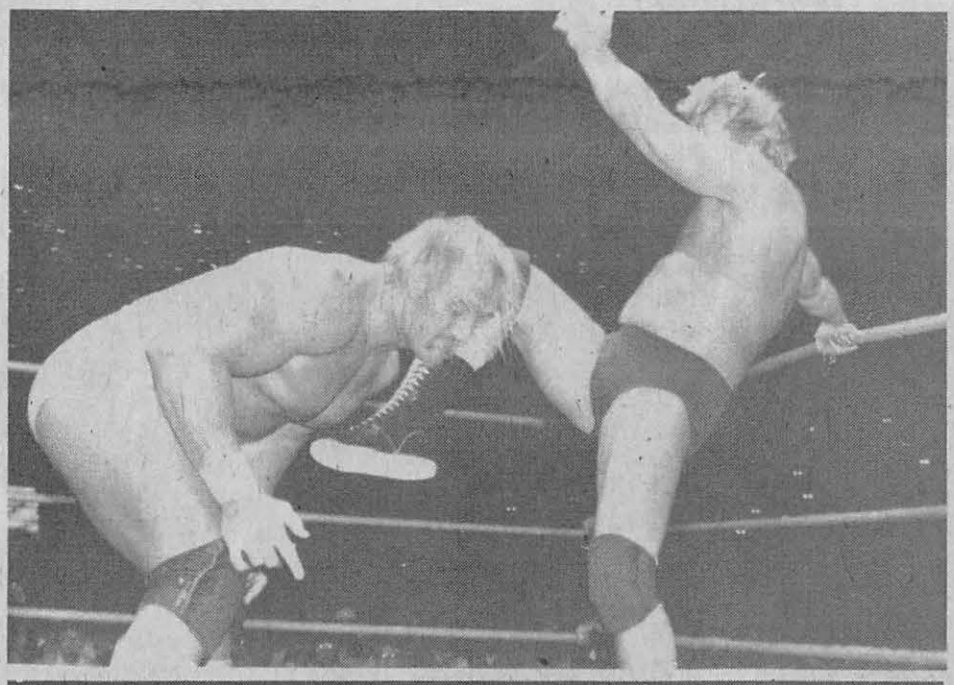


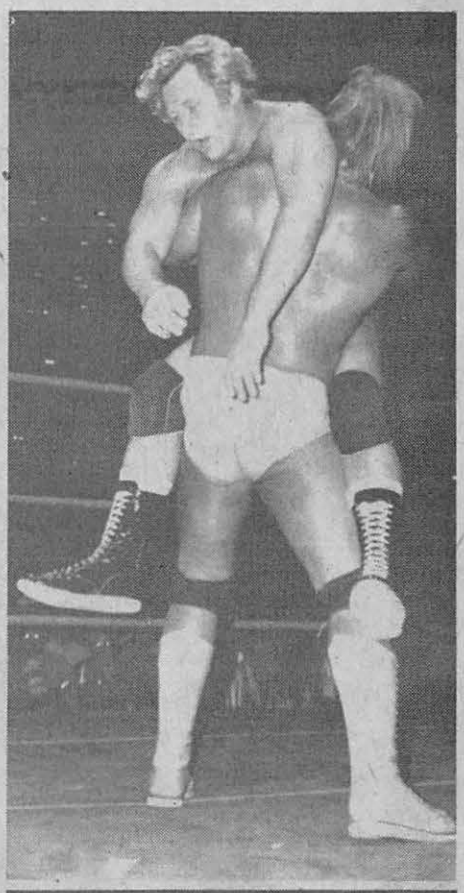


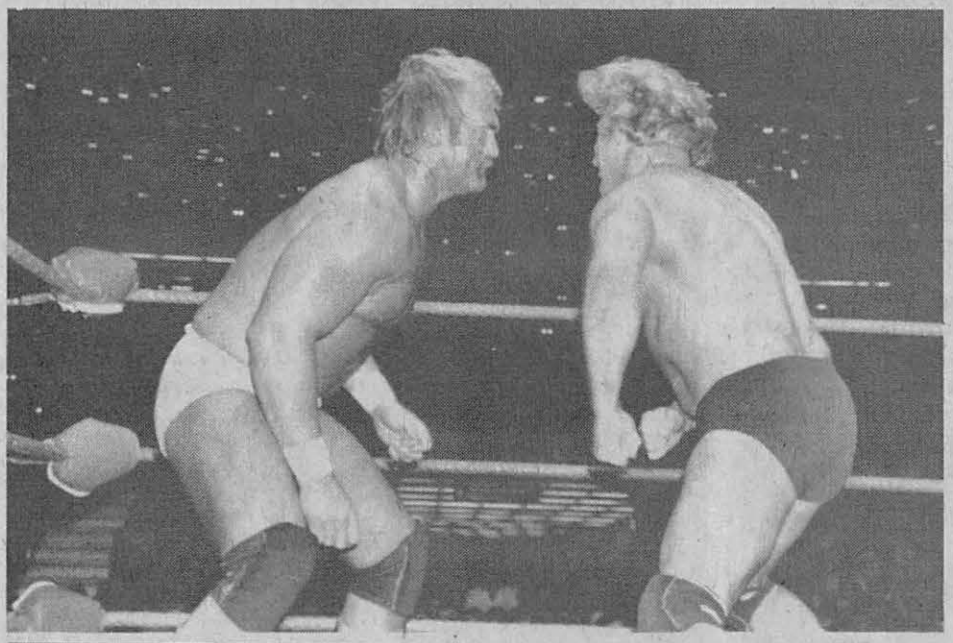
Recently Hulk Hogan came very close to capturing the A.W.A. Title from champion Nick Bockwinkel. The match was a torrid affair with Hulk bettering Bock at every turn. If the champ went for a bodyslam, he found himself being hurled to the canvas instead. If he punched Hogan, he got clobbered in return. When special referee Lord James Blears was knocked down, it appeared that Nick's manager Bobby "The Brain" Heenan threw him some type of foreign object. The Hulk took it away and knocked Bockwinkel out and pinned him. The A.W.A. Championship Committee reversed the decision after viewing films of the match, disqualifying Bockwinkel for Heenan's interference. So the title reverted back to Nick, but Hogan has had the satisfaction of beating Bockwinkel, and is now ranked as one of his top contenders.

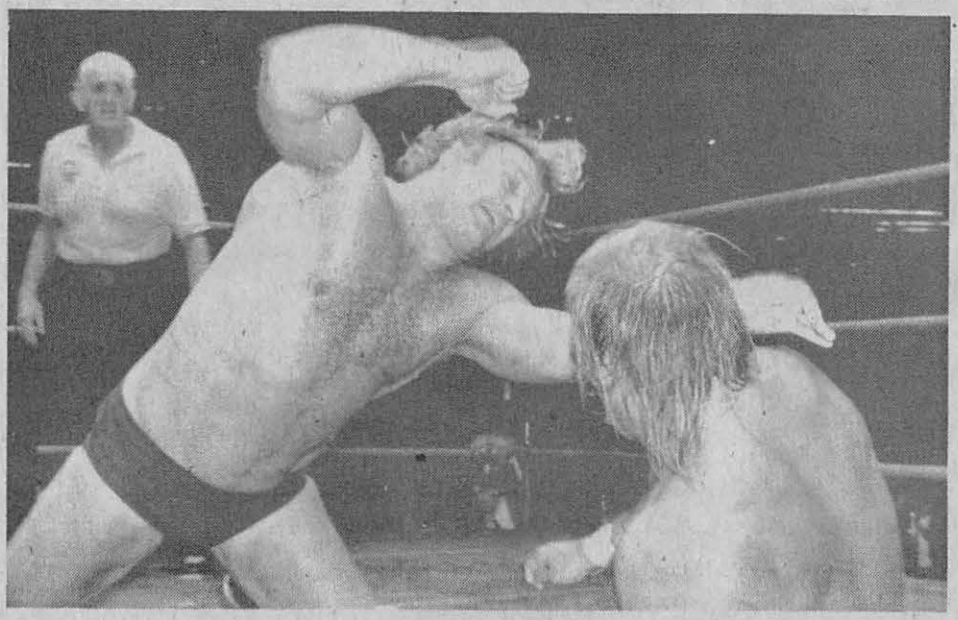












JUDY MARTIN SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDS U.S. LADY WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP VERSUS REDHOT SUSAN STERLING IN JACKSONVILLE

By Gene Gordon

Susan Sterling, one of the sport's hottest new stars, stopped to sign autographs before entering the ring.

U.S. Ladies Champion Judy Martin got right down to business with Sterling once the bell sounded.

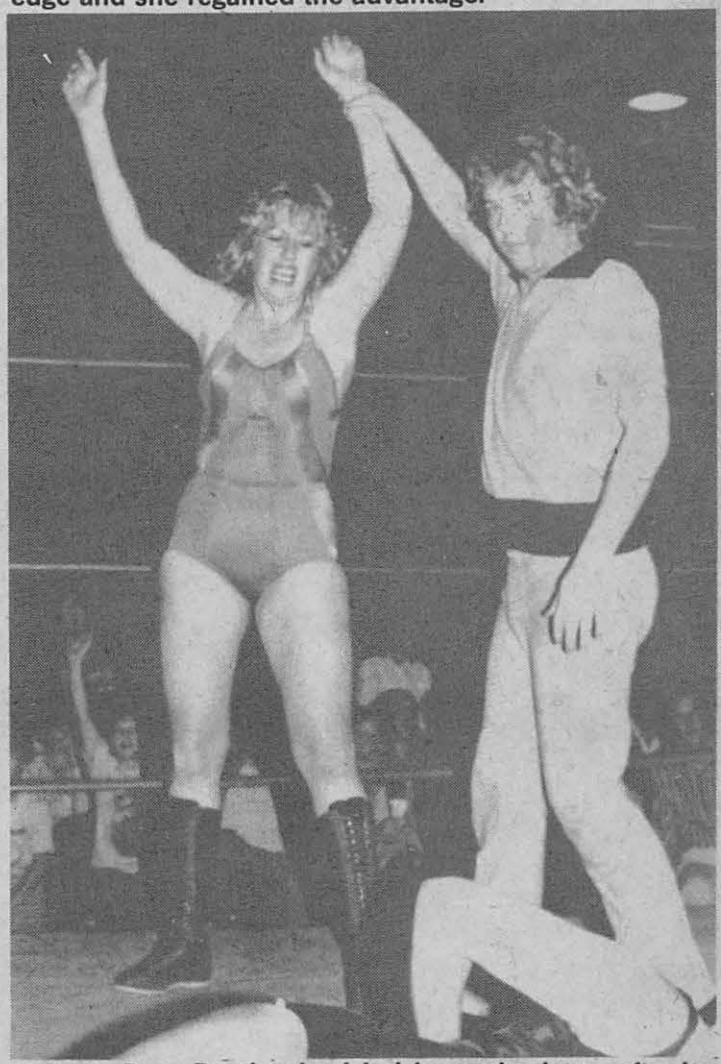
The champ found out soon she had a real tiger on her hands, here Susan ducks under for a reversal.

Like poetry in motion she took Martin to the canvas with an armlock of her own.

Susan Sterling had Judy Martin in serious trouble when she used a series of flying headsissors holds.

Eventually Judy's experience proved to be the deciding edge and she regained the advantage.

Using some judo chops, that she picked up during a recent wrestling tour of Japan, Judy put the hurt on Susan.



Referee Dave Routh raised Judy's arm in victory after he defeat of Sterling in Jacksonville, North Carolina.

WHAT MOTIVATES MANNY FERNANDEZ?

Photos By Norman Powers **By James C. Melby**

Manny Fernandez is a very complex individual, as are all human beings. In recent weeks he seems to have gone through a metamorphosis, becoming a real ring monster. Even Manny's closest friends are at a loss to explain what changed him.

It all started during a San Antonio match held a few months ago in which Manny was teamed with El Canek against the duo of The Grappler and Billy Spears. At this point in time Hernandez and Canek had been riding the crest of success, winning matches left and right. This bout was no different for "The Mexican Connection," they won after a hard fought battle.

But to the surprise of everyone, after their arms were raised in victory, Manny staged a vicious sneak attack on his partner. He rammed him head first into the steel ringpost. He seemed uncontrolable with rage, and bent on destroying his masked partner.

The next week during the taping of The Southwest Championship Wrestling T.V. program, Fernandez climbed into the ring and started insulting Canek, right after he and partner Chavo Guerrero had won a tag team match. When Chavo tried to intervene and stepped in between his two friends, he too was attacked by Fernandez.

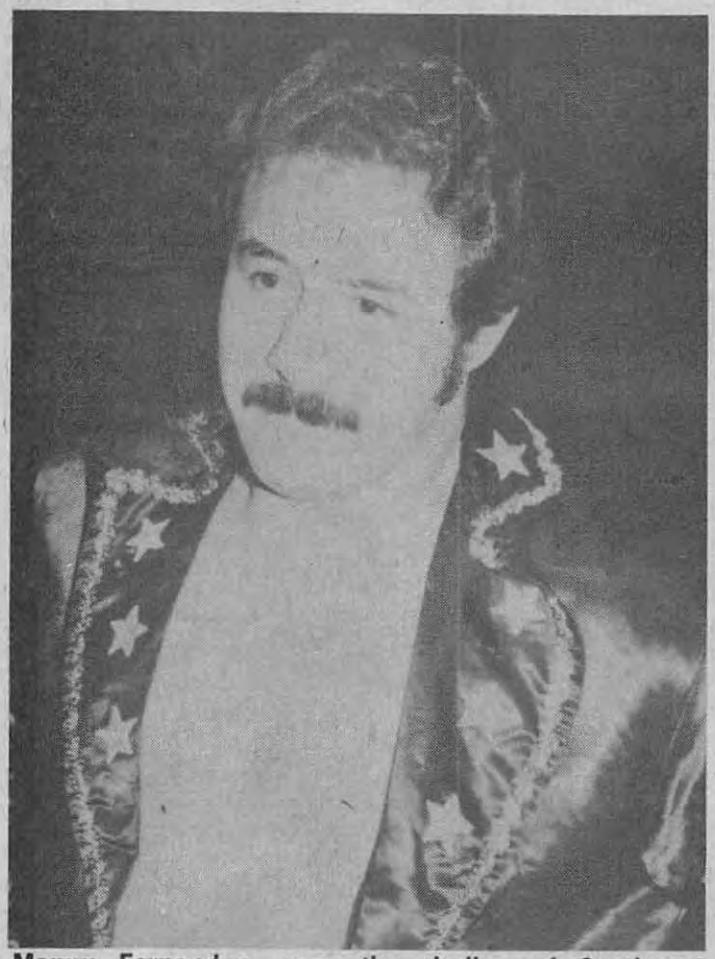
Both Canek and Guerrero were shocked by these unwarranted attacks, but they aren't taken Manny's actions passively. In fact Chavo and Manny have already met in a number of heated duels in Southwest rings.

It is really hard to understand Manny's attitudes. He doesn't even try to explain why he attacked his friends, just that he feels that they had it coming.

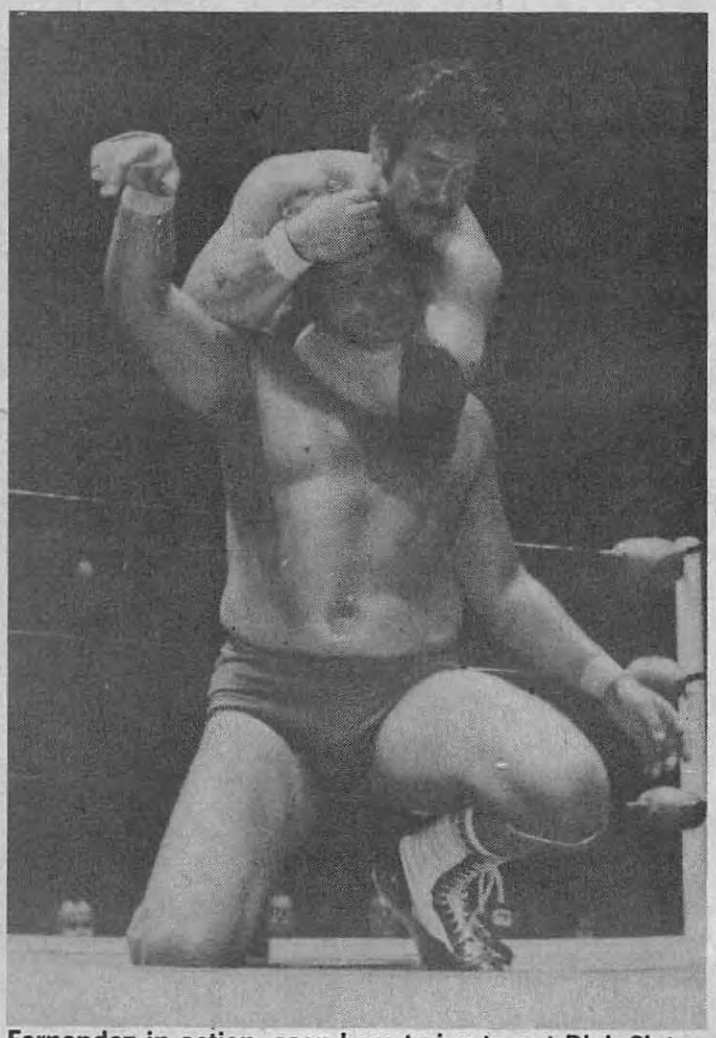
He in fact has done much to infuriate most of the local Hispanic community. He has made a habit of using a lot of nasty derogatory terms about not only his rivals, but also the people sitting in the crowd, who were once his biggest boosters.

One recent unfortunate incident saw Manny and Tully Blanchard being attacked by five men as they left a restaurant after having a late night meal. Fernandez received knife slashes in both the side and abdomen from one of his attackers, that required emergency hospital medical attention. Tully, proved his loyalty in this situation by disarming the thug and holding off the other attackers. This senseless violence was of course unfortunate, but tends to stress just how hated Manny Fernandez is by the people of the Southwest.

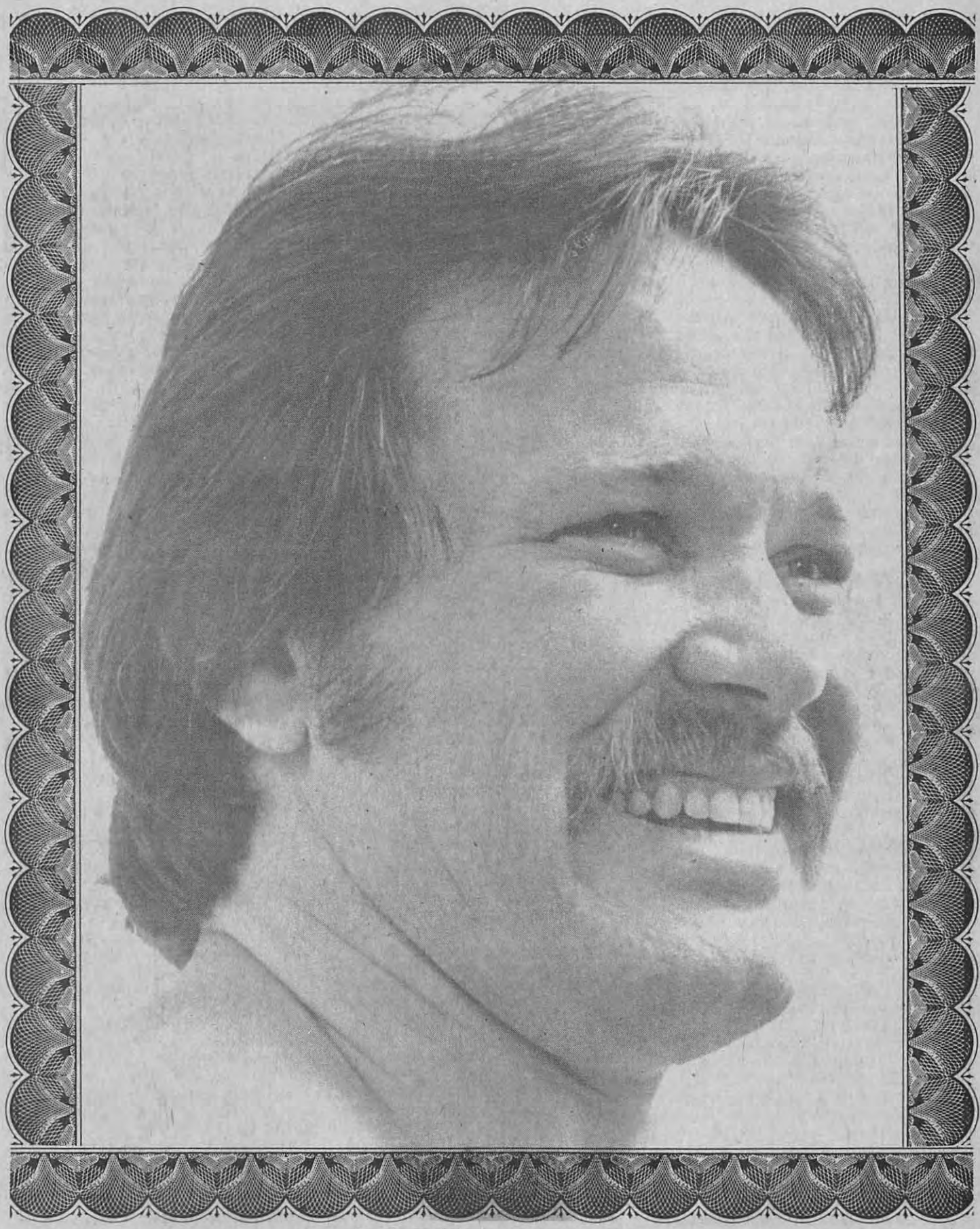
In conclusion we can only say that we have seen some of Manny Fernandez's new attitudes in action, and how others have reacted, but the real question remains - what is his inner motivation?



Manny Fernandez, once the darling of Southwest wrestling fans is now high on their hate list following a sudden change of attitude.



Fernandez in action, seen here trying to put Dick Slater away with a sleeper hold.



SCOTT CASEY

DEBBIE COMBS SCORES BIG WIN OVER DAY

By Joe Kennedy

Girl wrestling fans in Eastern Kentucky were treated to an exceptionally good match when ICW recently brought Donna Day and Debbie Combs together in Stanford, Ky. Both girls are extremely talented, strong, quick, and beautiful. Miss Combs had a height-weight advantage, but Miss Day's no-holds-barred style evened things up.

The match was action packed from the opening bell when Debbie clamped a wrist lock on Donna. By sheer strength alone, Donna reversed the hold and grabbing a handful of blond hair took Debbie down on the mat.

Debbie struggled to her feet and Donna switched to an arm bar. Debbie twisted out and threw Day to the canvas. As Donna hit the deck, Combs dropped on her, driving her knee into the small of Donna's back. Debbie wrenched Day's arm around into an excruciating hammerlock. Combs backed up and again jammed Donna's arm into the hammerlock, at the same time grinding her knee into Day's back.

Just as Donna was about to pull herself to the safety of the ropes, Debbie released the hammerlock, grabbed Day's ankles, and dragged Donna to the center of the ring. Debbie then worked Donna into a head-scissors.

Rising onto hands and toes, Combs applied more pressure on Donna's neck, trying to force Day to submit. When Debbie rolled back, Donna did a forward flip onto Combs for a pin. As the ref counted "two", Combs released the head scissors and threw Day off.

Donna seized the opportunity and was on Combs in an instant. Donna put Debbie in a leglock and threw her full weight onto Combs' ankles. Debbie tried for the ropes, just out of reach, but was brought up short as Day took two handsful of Combs' hair and pulled backed.

Day pulled for all she was worth. Combs' back and neck were bent near to breaking. The ref called for Donna to release the hold. Donna backed up, released Combs' boots for a split second, and then resumed the hold.

Debbie tried several times for the ropes, but finally rolled herself onto her back. Donna shifted her weight forward for the pin. As the referee started the count, Debbie worked her feet up against Donna's chest and Donna landed across the ring.

Both girls were quickly on their feet, Debbie still in pain and staggering. Donna wasted no time. She charged into Combs with fists flying. Debbie hit the canvas and Day applied a step-over toe hold.

Donna Day seemed quite cool, calm, and collected before wrestling her recent match against arch rival Debbie Combs.

Donna leaned into the hold, twisting Debbie's leg to create as much pain as possible. Donna reached out and pulled on the ropes for additional leverage and the ref ordered the hold to be broken.

When Donna released the rope, Combs made her move. Before Day could step out of the toe hold, Debbie kicked out with her free leg, sending Donna over backward. Combs stood up and it was Donna who was now trapped in the toe hold.

Donna was able to roll to one side and reach the ropes. Combs was forced to release the hold, but she held onto Day's ankles and drug Donna away from the ropes. Once clear of the ropes Combs jumped on Donna, ramming a knee into the small of Day's back. Debbie worked her fingers under Donna's chin, gritted her teeth, and pulled back, hoping Donna's spine would snap. Despite the pain Donna refused to submit.

Combs released the hold, pulled Donna to her feet, backed Day into the ropes and monkey flipped her. Donna hit the mat and slid under the ropes and onto the floor.

The count was at eight when Donna climbed back onto the apron. Combs made a lunge, but the referee forced her back. As Day stepped over the middle rope Combs charged again, this time pulling Donna forward over the top rope.

The ropes wrapped around Donna's thighs leaving her upside down. Combs administered a spanking, to the overwhelming approval of the crowd.

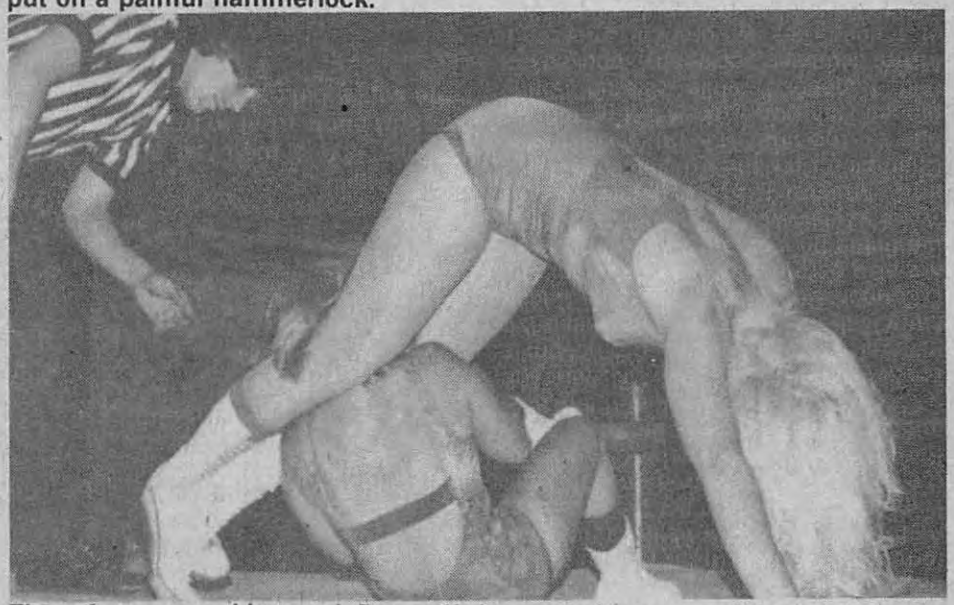
With the referee's help Donna escaped the ropes only to be trapped in a forward headlock. Combs shifted to a wrist lock and forced Day to her knee. Debbie went to a body scissors and proceded to bounce Donna to the mat.

Donna twisted around in the scissors and raked Combs across the face to escape. Dragging Combs to her feet, Day whipped Debbie into the ropes for a back drop. As Combs came across Donna's back she clamped her arms around Day's waist and pulled Donna over in a sunset flip. The count of three brought to an end an exciting women's wrestling match.

Debbie started out the match by putting Donna in a wristlock.

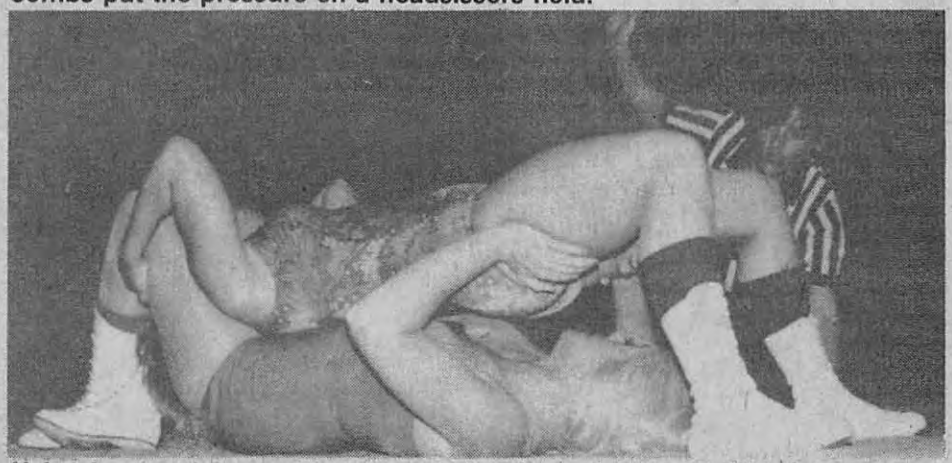
Debbie had Donna pretty much at her mercy when she slipped behind and put on a painful hammerlock.

After powering out, Day took Combs to the mat with an armbar.

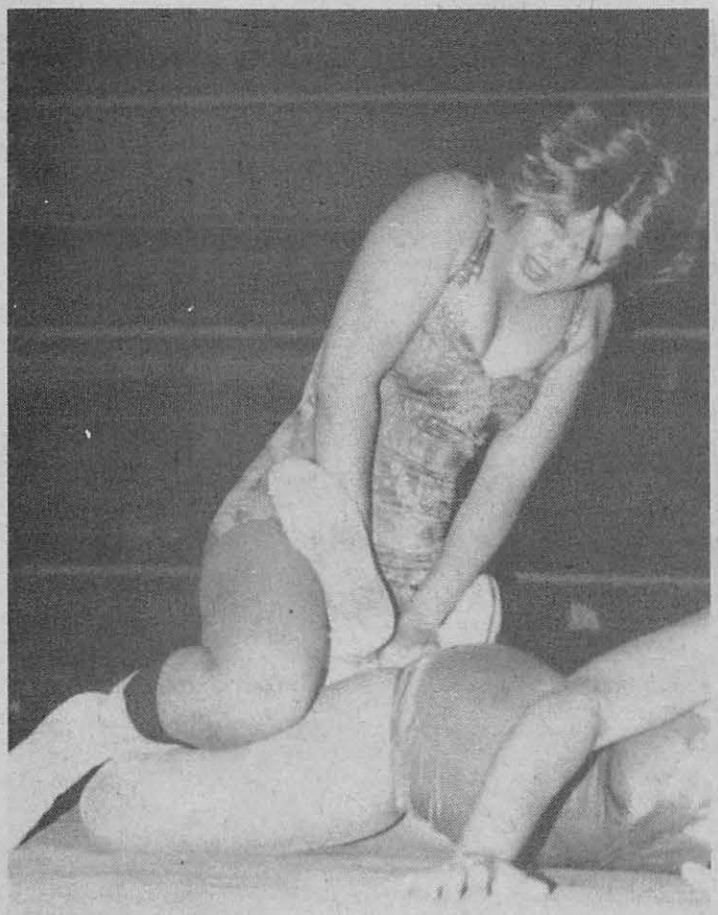


The referee moved in to ask Donna if she wanted to conceed the bout when Combs put the pressure on a headsissors hold.

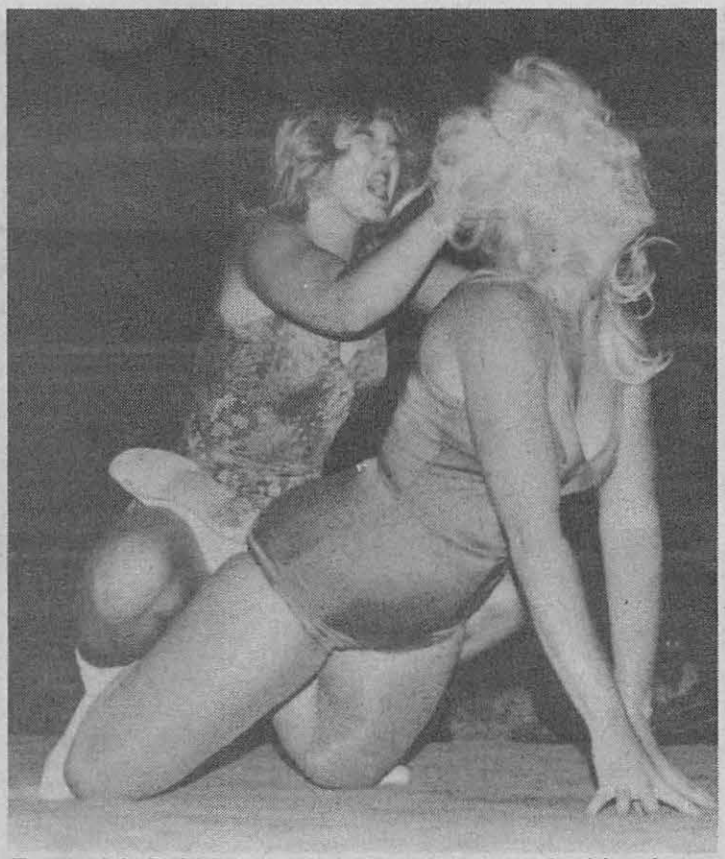
Debbie had to struggle to free herself from this predicament.



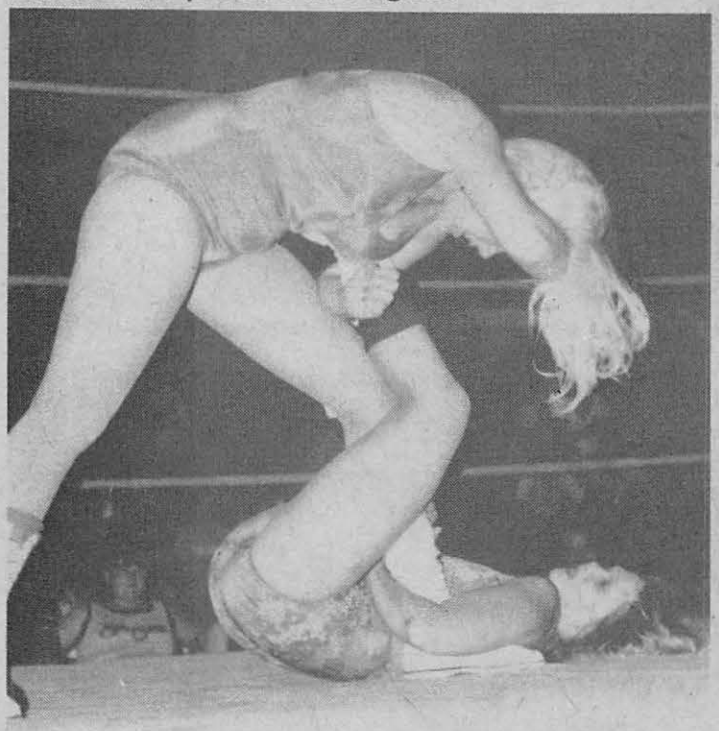
Using her head Donna flipped over and almost bridged Debbie into a near pinfall position.



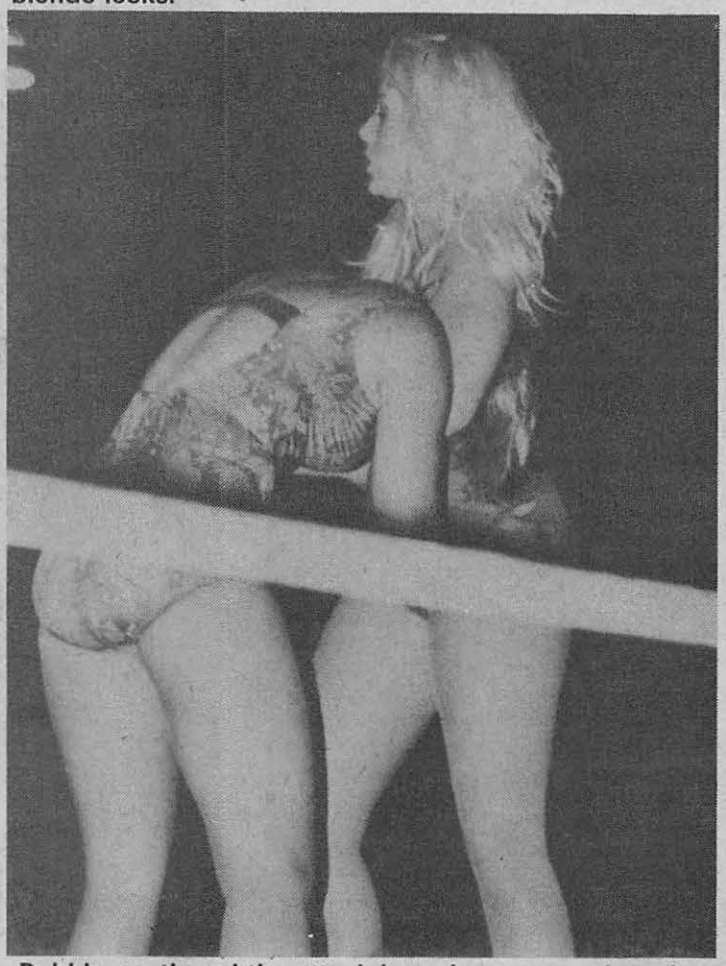
The concentration is evident on Donna's face as she increases the pressure on a leglock.



To punish Debbie even further, Donna yanked her long blonde locks.

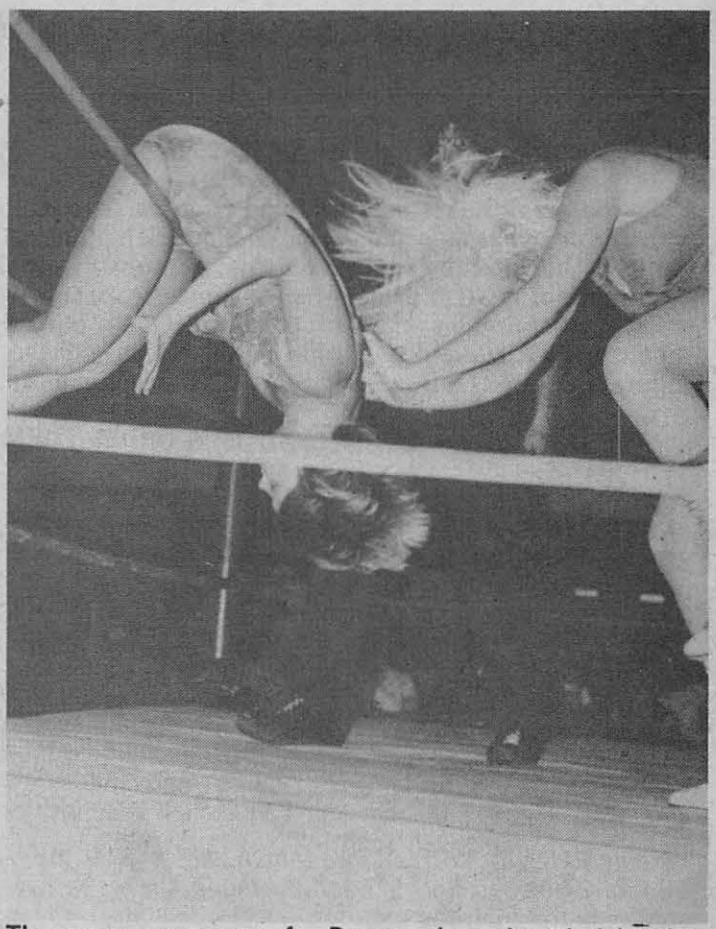


The ladies exchanged a series of step-over-toe holds, with Combs eventually gaining the upper hand.

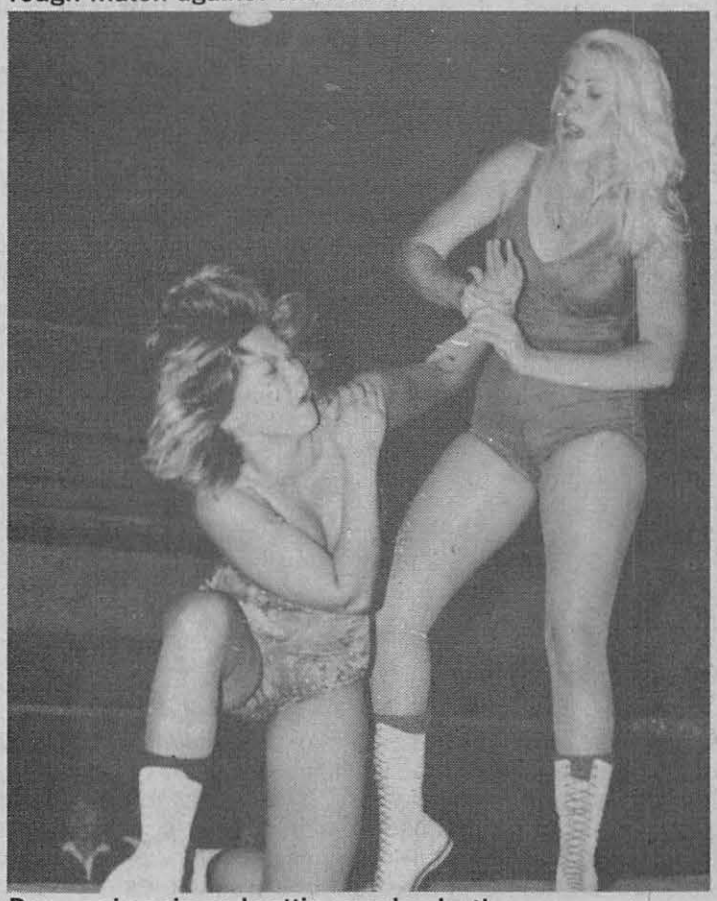


Debbie continued the attack by trying to wear down her rival with a front headlock.

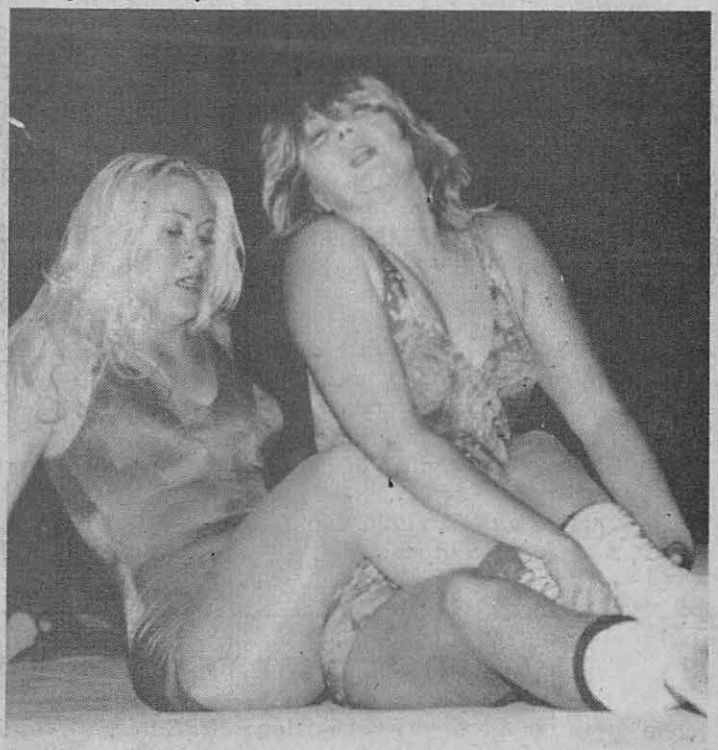
This picture shows graficly that these two waged a very rough match against each other.



There was no escape for Donna when she tried for the safety of the ropes.



Day was in pain and getting weaker by the moment by the time this photo was snapped.



Donna escape this sissors by raking Debbie's eyes, but shortly thereafter fell victim to a sunset flip.

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THE NEW ZEALAND WRESTLING SCENE

By Dave Cameron

With the arrival of the giant Hawaiian "King" Tor Kamata the New Zealand scene is really hotting up. Teamed with villainous Baron Von Krupp the pair have already captured the Austral-Asian Championship tag belts off all time favorite team here of Mark Lewin and Steve Rickard. This match was nationally televised and will also screen in 8 other Asian Countries. The Hawaiian loves the taste of blood (his opponents) and the fans here are horrified at his head biting tactics. However Mark Lewin and Steve Rickard vow they will get their revenge and once more wear the belts with pride.

The Maltese Falcon, a Maltese born wrestler who lives in Australia had a most unfortunate tour of New Zealand. On his first ever visit here The Falcon fell from the ring and broke his leg in five places.

Last year Lu Leota suffered a broken leg in a bout here and has not wrestled since and the previous year young Rick Rickard also received a broken leg.

Still further proof that wrestling is no sissy's sport.

Young J. J. Johnson, a clever moving stylist is leaving for a seven week visit to Los Angeles. If he succeeds in obtaining some bookings there he will stay longer. New Zealand's youngest professional, at 19 years, J. J. is extremely talented and American fans should be well pleased with his work.

BARON VON KRUPP

THE ASSASSIN

New Zealand mat fans are currently seeing two of the World's top masked stars in our rings. Over the years since "The Zebra Kid" George Bollas appeared here in the late 50's very few masks have graced our rings.

Perhaps one of the most outstanding was The Sensational Intelligent Destroyer who packed the YMCA on 12 consecutive weeks here in Auckland. Apart from The Spoiler and Dr. Death very few have emerged with any big successes.

At present feuding in our rings are The Assassin, U.S.A. and The Avenger, U.S.A. The Assassin states there is no room in a small country for two masks and The Avenger must go.

The Avenger says he loves the country and the people and has no wish to leave yet. The masked men have met on several occasions but usually end up in a double disqualification.

On one occasion on Nation-wide T.V. The Avenger did manage to get The Assassin's mask off but Baron Von Krupp was waiting with his cloak and quickly covered The Assassin's head up before any viewers could have a good look.

A loser leave town match is being considered for the near future and the one who is unmasked will have to leave New Zealand.

Bruno Bekkar who broke his leg in Puerto Rico while teaming with Don Kent as The Kangaroo's, is making good progress and hopes to be fit again in the near future.

The Kangaroo's were scheduled to tour New Zealand later this year.

Samoan Joe soon to do a tour of Singapore and Pakistan. Joe has been trying for an American visa for some time now as he has contacts in Texas.

Merv Fortune our only Maori star is currently travelling the country and will be more active this year. Merv moulded his style after that of King Curtis and is not unlike the Hawaiian in his style and appearance.

Wrestling takes a break here for a few weeks when the top boys here travel to Singapore, Pakistan and New Guinea for tournaments there. There is a possibility some new talent will come here from these countries.

John Garcia this year wrestling more regularly than usual. Due to his business committments John doesn't travel far but looks set for a busy season. John's brother is famous in U.S.A. and is Tony Garea. The boys were once tag-team Champions in New Zealand.

New boys active in New Zealand are Shane O'Rourke, Jak Laki, and Tama Sasa. All come into the sport with much amateur experience.

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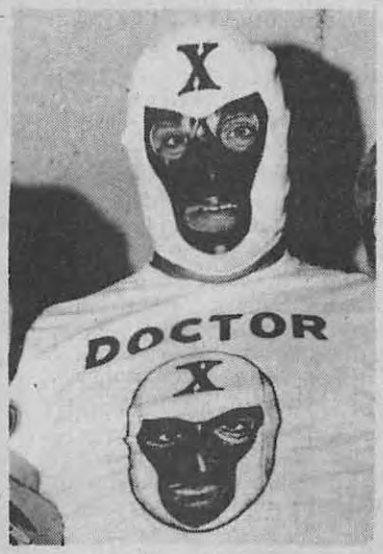

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THE BRITISH WRESTLING REPORT

By Stuart H. Barker

The star that has gained instant success with the fans is the newly arrived Japanese wrestler KWIK-KIK-LEE. Arriving at the start of the summer season he has given some of the most sensational displays seen. He displays most of the appeal of the brother we call SAMMY Lee who wrestles at Middleweight. Yet with KWIK-KIK-LEE we have a full heavyweight. Trained in the Budokan in Tokyo at the martial arts, he came to the notice of the great ANTONIO INOKI. This big man in Japanese wrestling took KWIK-KIK-LEE to be his tag team partner and toured Japan gaining full houses in Tokyo and Osaka. Only recently INOKI went into the hospital at Teishin for a right knee to be operated on. The operation went on for three hours. This was injured during the Japanese M.S.G. series. But soon he will be wrestling at his best again.

KWIK-KIK went to High School in Hokuyo where he gained a 'Black Belt'. He was engaged by the 'New Pro-Wrestling Of Japan' and had his debut in Nagaoko against KOTETSU YAMAMOTO. Later he obtained the 'Most Industrious Wrestler Prize' by Tokyo Sports Press.

The last name from the world of wrestling in Japan to visit our shores was SHOZO KOBAYASHI.

JIM HARRIS the Mississippi Mauler of U.S.A. obtained a broken ankle from KWIK-KIK at Cleethorpes and had to return home. The plans for the Japanese star are to be out away from home on a world tour of three years. During which time he hopes to establish himself and obtain world honours.

SAMMY LEE went home in the summer of 1981 and his countless fans would love him to return to wrestle as a tag partner with his brother. Both have high kicking styles in the ring. With Sammy being the master of the aerial moves.

CRUSHER BRANNIGAN (U.S.A.) came to the British mats from South Africa where he had been on tour for four months. This bearded 300lb. wrestler arrived with his passport marked from all corners of the world. Big and powerful he soon established himself as a leading villian. Born in Thousand Oakes, California, he is age 34. Yet he spent most of his life in New York. This big 6' 2" wrestler had his first matches on the East Coast of America. Later to see action on the cards at Madison Square Gardens with champions like BRUNO SAMMARTINO, PEDRO MORALES, and GORILLA MONSOON. Action

BIG DADDY

while on tour has seen him in Mexico against CHAVO GUERERRO and in Japan on with GIANT BABA. Then onto Australia to do battle with JOHN GREY. Followed by New Zealand with matches against STEVE RICKARD and RICK MARTEL.

NEWS FROM ROUND AND ABOUT tells us top villian TONY WALSH was sent for a spell in the hospital with a leg injury. He was also billed to return to his love of football at Stroke-On-Trent to play in the 'All Stars Football Team'. A team made up of Show Business Personalities.

COUNT BARTELLI (Geoff Candliffe) also out of action with neck and back injury when the top rope broke during a contest with KLONDYKE JAKE which sent him crashing to the concrete floor and to hospital.

SHIRLEY CRABTREE (Big Daddy) was weighed in his own weight 322lbs. of gold-wrapped Easter eggs. They were given by the manufacturer to the London Children's Hospital. The children's comics 'BUSTER' and 'TIGER' publications use BIG DADDY in their comic strip cartoon. He takes the hero role to do battle with another comic strip character called JOHNNY COUGAR, the Seminole Indian.

WAYNE BRIDGES continues to hold out with the version of the Heavyweight title here. Strong opposition comes from PETE ROBERTS, who tries hard to wrestle that belt away.

PAT ROACH brings further threat along with TOM TYRONE, CASWELL MARTIN and stars from around the globe have a desire to contest Wayne. Their individual records are looked into by the manager of WAYNE BRIDGES.

PRINCE KUMALI, a former top star from the heavyweight class who gained distinction for his bouts with the great BERT ASSIRATTI, who was known as the uncrowned king of the mat. For the historians of wrestling Bert had experience from the star of American rings of yesterday, BENNY SHERMAN.

RAY STEELE continues to be high on the list of the leading British heavyweights. He gained a verdit from Giant Haystacks (LUKE MacMASTERS). Although via a disqualification it proves he can stop the biggest wrestler in Europe. Haystacks has found himself a new partner in IAN MUIR, the powerful Scottish bruiser heavyweight who travels to Europe, India, Pakistan and Africa sometimes as bodyguard to top show business personalities.

DAVID SMITH came home for a short tour. This from Calgary, Canada, which is his new base. He returns to join others of our stars over the Atlantic - CHRIS ADAMS, ADRIAN STREET, RINGO RIGBY and DYNAMITE KID.

MARK ROCCO flies to Japan for bouts with 'TIGER MASK' and he will be no stranger having been there on two previous occasions.

Until the next time.....

BEST WISHES FROM THE BRITISH MATS.

STUART H. BAKER

PETE ROBERTS

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ON AND AROUND THE MAT WORLD (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)

1931 and is still going strong more than fifty years later. He holds membership in all three major leagues - the A.W.A., the N.W.A., and the W.W.F. - and features stars from everywhere. Much of the top talent appearing is booked through the Charlotte office so we cover it here.

Angelo "King Kong" Mosca is still the recognized Canadian Heavyweight Champion here. He recently turned back the challenge of Gene Kiniski. Mosca also teamed up with Jake "The Snake" Roberts in another recent Toronto main event and they bested the team of Nick Bockwinkle (A.W.A. World's Heavyweight Champion) and Big John Studd. Roberts also defeated U.S. Champion Sergeant Slaughter in a title match in Toronto, but the title did not change hands as it was on a disqualification. And in still another match Studd bested Roberts.

Ivan Koloff successfully defended his television championship against "Outlaw" Ron Bass, but then lost that title to "Handsome" Jimmy Valiant. This office also presents cards in other Ontario cities such as Guelph, Ottawa, etc., and in Buffalo, New York. On a recent Buffalo card, Mosca defended his Canadian title against the challenge of Studd, and Koloff, Valiant, and Roberts were also featured along with The Ninja. Other grapplers who have appeared in this area during the past month include Tarzan Tyler, Johnny Weaver, Tony Parisi, Pvt. Don Kernodle, Pvt. Jim Nelson, Porkchop Cash, Keith Larson, Tim Horner, Kelly Kiniski, Tito Zenza, Steve Sybert, Mike Davis, Ken Timbs, Nick DeCarlo, and The Intelligent Sensational Destroyer.

Next we will take a look at the N.W.A. booking office in Atlanta, Georgia. It is headed by promoters Jim Barnett and Paul Jones. They present cards about twice a month in Atlanta, Georgia, at The Omni, and spot shows throughout Georgia. Also, because their television program is beamed to many area's outside of Georgia on cable systems, they now promote extensively outside the state. They are currently running monthly cards in Canton, Springfield, Zanesville, and Marion, Ohio; Grand Rapids, Saginaw, and Lansing, Michigan; and Bluefield, West Virginia. They also run cards about twice a month in Columbus, Ohio; and in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Gordon Solie is now hosting the Sunday "Best of Championship Wrestling" television program in addition to the two hour Saturday "Georgia Championship Wrestling" that he and Roddy Piper are co-hosts of. Jerry Brisco was recently named vice president in charge of promotions for G.C.W.

Buzz Sawyer continues to hold the Georgia National Heavyweight Championship, and The Superstar & Big John Studd are still the Georgia National Tag Team Champions. Other grapplers who have appeared on their cards during the past month include Bob Armstrong, Kevin Sullivan, The Great Kabuki (managed by Gary Hart), Ole Anderson, The re-united Freebirds (Michael Hayes & Terry Gordy), Le Roy Brown, Mr. Wrestling II, Dusty "The American Dream" Rhodes, George Steele, Steve Hansen, Terry Funk, Dick Slater, Eddie Mansfield, Ray "The Crippler" Stevens, Ric Harris, Chick Donovan, Tom Prichard, Snake Brown, Jim Dalton, Steve Sybert, Spike Huber, Ken Tims, Ron Ritchie, Mike Jackson, Ric Thor, Bob McKanzie, Tony Russo, and Mike Davis.

Next we will take a look at the Tampa, Florida, booking office which is headed by promoters Eddie Graham and Jim Barnett. There have been several title changes during the past month. Butch "Hacksaw" Reed defeated Dory Funk Jr. to win the area's International Heavyweight Championship. David von Erich continues to hold the Florida Southern Heavyweight Championship. Jim Garvin won the Florida State Heavyweight Championship from Mr. Wrestling II. David von Erich continues to hold the Florida Television Championship. Sweet Brown Sugar and "Hacksaw" Reed are still recognized as North American Tag Team Championship. Other wrestlers who have appeared on cards of this promotion which operates throughout southern Florida during the past month include Kendo Nagasaki, Hiro Matsuda, Terry Allen, El Gran Apollo, Brian Blair, Derek "The Mongoose" Draper, Barry Windham (a.k.a. Black Jack Mulligan Jr.), Dusty Rhodes, Mike Graham, "King" James Dillon, Vinnie Valentino, Randy Rose, Chris Markoff, and Gordon Nelson.

Next we will take a look at the N.W.A. booking office in Mobile, Alabama, that presents "Southeastern Championship Wrestling" in the Gulf Coast areas of Alabama and Florida. Joe Leduc continues to hold the Southeastern Heavyweight Championship and added the Alabama State Heavyweight Championship to his possessions when he defeated Terry Gordy to win it. The Sheepherders (Jonathan Boyd & Luke Williams) are still the Southeastern Tag Team Champions. They have had some real battles with Ron and Robert Fuller over that title. The area's U.S. Junior Heavyweight Championship has changed hands three times. Ted Oates won it from Scott McGhee but then lost it back to him. Then McGhee lost it to Brad Armstrong. World's Heavyweight Champion Ric Flair visited the area and successfully defended his title against the challenge of Terry Gordy. Other wrestlers who have appeared here during the past month include Roy Lee Welch, Juan Reynosa, Larry Hamilton, Bobby Garrett, Eric Embry, LeRoy Brown,

EL GRAN APOLLO

Chick Donovan, Bob Armstrong, Al Perez, Austin Idol, Don Carson, Wayne Ferris, Tommy Wright, and "Moondog" King (who is being managed by Louie Tillet). Expected to appear on cards here in the near future are Tommy Rich, Dusty Rhodes, and Kevin Sullivan.

Southeastern Championship Wrestling also ran a series of cards in Ohio this past month. Towns they ran were Hamilton, Dayton, Springfield, Lima, and also Richmond, Indiana. Featured on these cards were Jeff Sword, Jerry Gray, Wayne Farris, Rick McCord, Tony Charles, Ted Allen, Randy Rose, Roy Rogers, Tojo Yamamoto, Ron Fuller, Austin Idol, Terry Downey, Hans Mueller, Moon Dog White, Al Perez, Mike McGee, Ken Jugan, Get Down Brown, "Hangman" Jim Grabmire, Jay Silvercloud, The Nightmare, The Beast, John Ruffin, and Wilbur Snyder. Also lady wrestlers Peggy Lee, Leilani Kai, Vivian St. John, Sandy Martel, and The Fabulous Moolah.

Next we will move over to Dallas, Texas, and take a look at the N.W.A. booking office in that city. The big event of this area during the past month took place in Texas Stadium - the final match of Fritz von Erich who announced his retirement prior to the card. In the main event Fritz challenged and defeated King Kong Bundy to win the area's top title - the U.S. American Heavyweight Championship. Bundy had earlier taken that title from Kerry von Erich. Other matches on the super card saw The Great Kabuki & The Golden Dragon (managed by Gary Hart) successfully defend their "All Asia Tag Team Championship" by defeating Kevin and David von Erich. Kerry von Erich defeated Harley Race in a match that promised the winner a title shot at Ric Flair. Andre the Giant captured a battle royal over The Spoiler, Bugsy McGraw, Wild Bill Irwin, Ti John Tibbedeaux, Al Madril, and Jose Lothario. Lola Gonzales successfully defended the "Lady Championship of Mexico" against Irma Gonzales. El Solitario successfully defended the "Light Heavyweight Championship of the World" by defeating Rene Guajardo. Quite a card. Other titles recognized in the area include Texas Brass Knucks (Buggsy McGraw), World's Tag Team Championship (Kerry von Erich & Alberto Madril), and Texas State Heavyweight Championship (Bill Irwin). Other wrestlers who have appeared in the area during the past month include Carlos Zapata, Armond Hussian, Mike Bond, Kim Duk, Rick Harris, Frank Dusek and Ken Mantell.

Next we will take a look at the Kansas City booking office which is headed by Bob Geigel. Roger "Nature Boy" Kirby continues to hold the Central States Heavyweight Championship. Ray "Hercules" Hernandez won the Central States Television title from Mark

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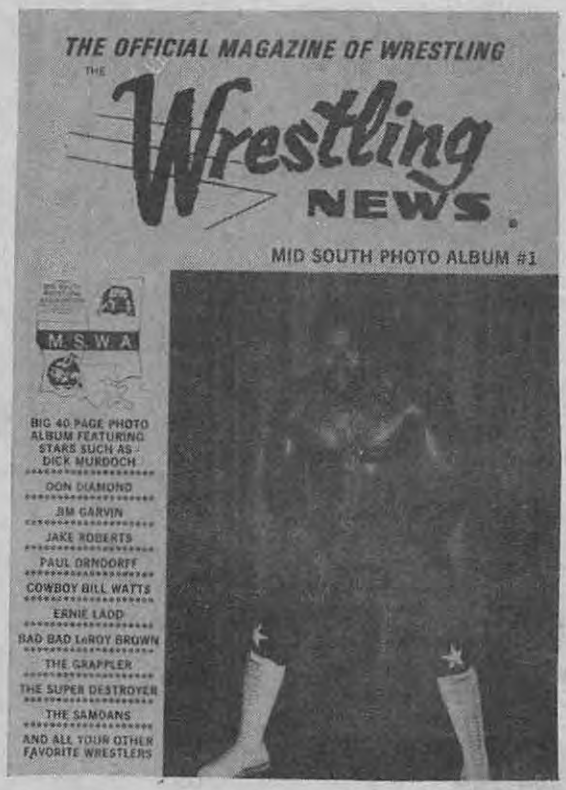

This 40 page photo album was specially published by The Wrestling News® for the Mid South Wrestling Association. It includes full page glossy color photos of Frank Dusek, Dusty Rhodes, Andre the Giant, Ernie Ladd, Cowboy Bill Watts, Paul Orndorff, Dick Murdoch, and The Junkyard Dog. Plus over 30 more black and white photos covering all the top stars of the Mid South Wrestling Association.

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Romero. Romero, however, is not without a title as he teamed up with Mike George to win the Central States Tag Team Championship from "Nature Boy" Kirby and Jerry Brown. Other wrestlers who have appeared here during the past month include Ricky Romero, Rufus R. Jones, Dave Nevins, Art Crews, Harley Race, The Masked Superfly (managed by Sir Oliver Humperdink), Ron McFarlane, Dusty Rhodes, Buzz Tyler, Charlie Pullens, Baron von Raschke, Dewey Robertson, and midget wrestlers Little Coco and Wee Willie Wilson. Former wrestlers Sonny Myers and Pat O'Connor have both been refereeing regularly.

I mentioned in this column sometime back that both Larry "Missouri Mauler" Hamilton and Sonny Myers were running for sheriff of Buchanah County, Missouri (which includes St. Joseph). Further information for which I thank Diane Devine is that another former wrestler, Ronnie Etchison, is now serving as campaign coordinator for Hamilton's bid. She also mentioned that Myers is a former sheriff there (from 1969 to 1974). All three of these ex-wrestlers (Etchison, Hamilton, and Myers) got their starts in the pro mat business from the late Gust Karras, long time promoter of wrestling in St. Joseph.

Next we will take a look at the N.W.A. booking office in St. Louis, Missouri. The general manager of this promotion is Larry Matysik and the matchmaker is Pat O'Connor. Bob Geigel and Verne Gagne are also partners in the promotion. The big battle here of late was one between World's Heavyweight Champion Ric Flair and Missouri State Heavyweight Champion Dick the Bruiser, with Flair's title on the line. The Bruiser actually pinned Flair during their last match, but that happened while referee Sonny Myers had been accidently knocked out of action. They will probably meet in a rematch soon. Other grapplers who have appeared in St. Louis during the past month include Jerry "Crusher" Blackwell, Ken Patera, Dusty "The American Dream" Rhodes, Rufus R. Jones, Jerry Brown, Ron McFarlane, Roger "Nature Boy" Kirby, Andre the Giant, Dick Murdoch, Dewey Robertson, David von Erich, Kerry von Erich, The Masked Superfly (managed by Sir Oliver Humperdink), "Bulldog" Bob Brown, Ray "Hercules" Hernandez, Mark Romero, Mike George, The Great Kabuki, Ted Oates, "Bruiser" Bob Sweetan, Art Crews, Harley Race, Ted DiBiase, Dory Funk Jr., and "King Kong" Brody.

Next we will take a look at the Pacific Northwest. The N.W.A. offices in Portland (headed by Don Owens) and in Seattle (headed by Dutch Savage) work very closely together and present wrestling throughout Oregon and Washington. Rip Oliver continues to hold

Sonny Myers pictured above, and Larry Hamilton(The Missouri Mauler), fought each other many times in the wrestling ring, now they are battling for the same political office.

the Pacific Northwest Heavyweight Championship and has successfully defended it against challenges from Brent "Hacksaw" Sawyer and from Rocky Johnson. Oliver and Matthew Borne still hold the Pacific Northwest Tag Team Championship and they have turned back challenges from Curt "The Hatchet" and Larry "The Axe" Hennig (father-son team that formerly held the title) and from Johnson & Sawyer. Other grapplers who have appeared here during the past month include Dizzy Hogan, Mike Miller, David "Dr. D." Shultz, Tommy Rogers, Siva Afi, Chris Adams, and Andre the Giant.

Next we will look at the N.W.A. booking office in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, which is headed by promoter Al Tomko who also wrestles regularly on his own cards. At last report the tag team title here was held by Terry "Kiss" Adonis and Bruiser Costa. "Bulldog" Bob Brown held the singles title - called the U.S. Championship - and was defending it in this Canadian area. Other grapplers appearing on the cards included Dean Ho, Sonny Myers, Mike Bond, Moose Morowski, Bob Steele, Eric Froelich, and Larry Watts.

Moving back east to Calgary, we will take a look at the booking office headed by Stu Hart that presents wrestling in Alberta and Saskatchewan. The titles recognized here at last report were: North American Heavyweight Championship held by Leo Burke, Mid-Heavyweight Championship held by The Dynamite Kid (a.k.a. Tommy Billington), the Commonwealth Championship held by Bruce Hart, and the International Tag Team Championship held by Bruce Hart, and the International Tag Team Championship held by Duke Myers & Kerry Brown. Others who have appeared here recently include David Shultz, The Cuban Assassin, Ho Chi Lau, Steve Taylor, Don Kolov, Hercules Ayala, Kung Fu, Hubert Gallant, Jude Rosenbloom, The Angel, Chicky Perone, Brett Hart, Mike Shaw, Tab Rogers, Tom Shea, and Robbie Stewart.

The next N.W.A. booking office we will look at is located in San Juan, Puerto Rico. We understand that "Hangman" Bobby Jaggers holds the area's North American and Carribean Heavyweight Championships and Carlitos Colon is the Puerto Rico Heavyweight Champion. The Moondogs were still the tag team champions recognized here at last report and they had recently defended that title against challenges from The Gilberts (father and son Tommy and Eddie) and the combination of Gorilla Monsoon & Joe Lightfoot. This office presents wrestling throughout the Carribean Islands. Among the stars who have appeared here recently are Pierre Martel, Charlie Cook, Victor Jovica, Jose Rivera, The Fabulous Kangaroos, Gene Lewis, Jack Veneno, Steve Lawler, El Medico Negro, Thunderbolt Williams, Massa Fuchi, Vicious Victor, The Ape, The Black Medic, The Mongolian Stomper, Mil Mascaras, The Mighty Igor, Cowboy Bob Ellis, The Bounty Hunter, and Ray Apollon. The Fabulous Moolah also made an appearance and defended her Women's Championship against the challenge of Joyce Grable.

THE ONE MAN GANG & GENERAL SCANDOR AKBAR

THE MID SOUTH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

A lot has been going on in the M.S.W.A. of late. In our last issue we reported that the Mississippi State Heavyweight Championship was held by Mr. Olympia and that the Louisiana State Heavyweight Championship was held by The Junkyard Dog. Together they also held the Mid South Tag Team Championship. Several wrestlers complained to the Mid South Wrestling Association president, Charlie Leigh, that it was unfair for these men to be dual titleholders since then they could not defend either title as often as it should be defended. Charlie Leigh ruled that they could hold both the tag team title and the state singles titles, but that if a holder of a single state championship also won the North American Heavyweight Championship - the top singles title in the M.S.W.A., that the state title would then be immediately declared vacant. The M.S.W.A., consists of three booking offices. They are in Jackson, Mississippi, headed by George and Gil Culkin; in Shreveport, Louisiana, headed by Jack Curtis Jr.and Grizzly Smith; and in Tulsa, Oklahoma, headed by Cowboy Bill Watts. Each office presents cards throughout the state in which they are located.

Anyway, since our last report, Bob Roop lost the North American Heavyweight Championship to The Junkyard Dog. This caused the Louisiana State title to be declared vacant. Then Ted DiBiase won the North American crown from The Dog. So that leaves a tournament or elimination to be held to name a new Louisiana State titleholder. In other big news here, Steve "Doctor Death" Williams who has been a standout on the Oklahoma University wrestling team turned pro after four outstanding years on that school's grappling squad. He is also the starting guard on the Oklahoma University football team and has one year of football eligibility left. Under present N.C.A.A. rules a student athlete can turn professional in one sport but still remain an amateur in another, so Steve plans to wrestle this summer and then return to the university in the fall and complete his football eligibility and his studies before eventually coming back to professional wrestling full time. He defeated The Turk with an Oklahoma Stampede in his debut.

General Scandor Akbar continues to manage "The One Man Gang" here and is determined to bring him to the top. Others who have appeared on cards in this area recently include Rick "Hangman" Harris, The Assassin, Iron Mike Sharpe, The Grappler, Mike Hudspeth, Randy Base, Billy Starr, Jessie Barr, and Killer Khan. Expected soon are Andre the Giant, Big John Studd, and The Super Destroyer.

THE INDEPENDENTS

This section of the magazine is devoted to the smaller promotions that do not belong to one of the four major leagues already covered. As I stress in each issue, this designation of "Independents" in no way means that these promotions are necessarily inferior to the ones listed earlier. In fact, as you will read through this section you will find that some of the major starts listed earlier also appear on the independent promotions. It is our aim to cover the entire world of professional wrestling in these pages, and since these smaller promotions do constitute part of that world we always cover them as well. As with the entire Area Close-Ups section, the amount of coverage we give each organization is limited only by how much information we have made available to us, and how much interest we feel there is among our readers in each organization. We attempt to cover all of the important news in professional wrestling in each promotion.

International Championship Wrestling: This promotion is based in Lexington, Kentucky. The following titles are recognized by the I.C.W. Randy "Macho Man" Savage is their World's Heavyweight Champion. Ronnie Garvin is their Southeastern Heavyweight Champion. Angelo "The Unmasked Miser" Poffo is their television champion. Rip Rogers & Pez Whatley are their tag team champions. They also recognize The Sheik as United States Heavyweight Championship. This U.S. title held by The Sheik is also recognized on several other independent promotions as we will note in the reports that follow.

During the past month Savage defended his singles title against the challenge of The Great Tio, and Rogers & Whatley defended their tag claim against the team of Ronnie Garvin & Thunderbolt Patterson. Other wrestlers who have appeared on cards of the I.C.W. during the past month include "Leaping" Lanny Poffo, Gary Royal, John Ruffen, Willie Monroe, George Weingeroff, Chief Tapu, and Ron Strunk.

THE GREAT TIO

The Sheik is recognized by most of the independent promoters as The United States Heavyweight Champion.

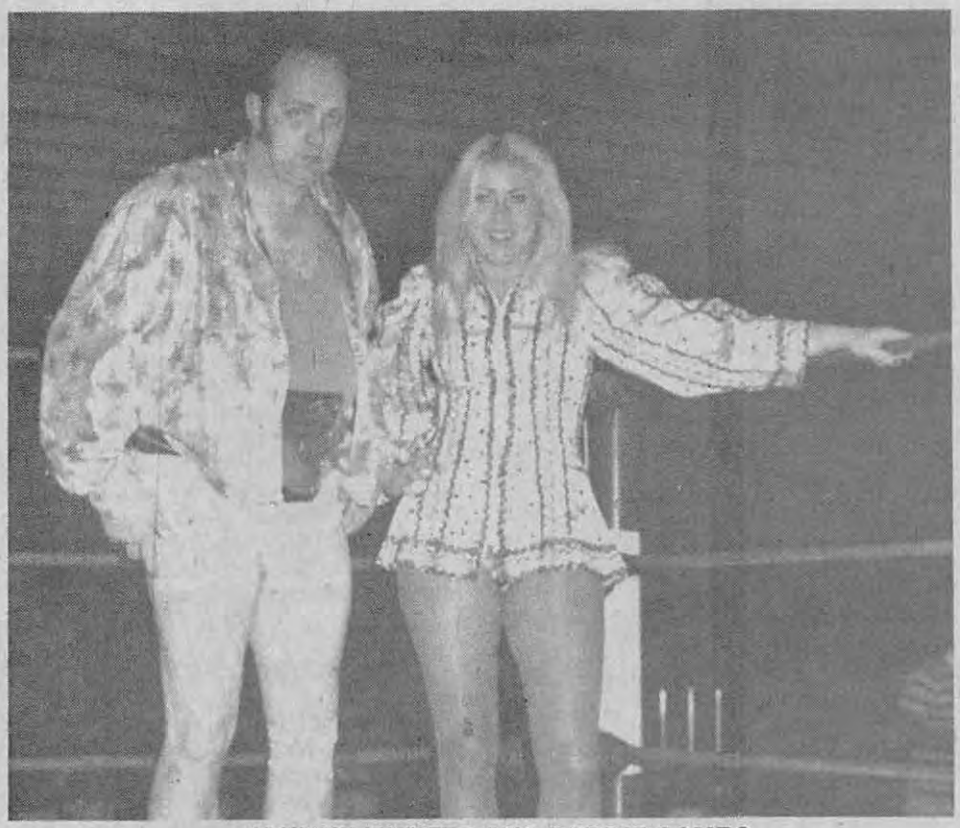
National Championship Wrestling: This promotion is based in Detroit, Michigan, and headed by Ed George. We understand they run spot shows in that state and in Ohio. The Sheik, of course, is the recognized U.S. Champion. Other who have appeared on N.C.W. cards in Michigan recently include Black Jack Luka, Black Jack Muller, Don Eagle Jr., The Wild Man, Thunderbolt Patterson, and lady wrestlers Candy Devine and Diane von Hoffman.

N.C.W. was also associated with a recent big card presented in The Coliseum in Richfield, Ohio. In the main event there The Sheik successfully defended his title against the challenge of Chief Jay Strongbow, who was counted out outside the ring. Others who reportedly appeared on the card were Nikolai Volkoff, Farkas the Wolfman, Luis Martinez, Killer Kowalski, Ox Baker, Bobby White, Tex McKenzie Jr., Christopher Colt III, Whipper Watson Jr., Rocky Cavaetti, Conar Donegan, Bruiser Brody, Ginger the Bear, midget wrestlers The Haiti Kid and The Carolina Kid, and lady wrestlers Devine and Von Hoffman.

Big Bear Promotions: presents wrestling regularly in many smaller Ontario towns. The Sheik is recognized as U.S. Champion here also and has recently defended his title against challenges from Luis Martinez and from Whipper Watson Jr. Others who have made recent appearances include Chris Colt, Tiger Jeet Singh, Domenic DeNucci, Frankie Laine, Ray Yarek, Chris Tolos, Johnny Valiant, Bruno Sammartino Jr., The Wolfman, The Mongol, and wrestling bear Terrible Ted. Also midgets Farmer Pete, Ivan the Terrible, and The Carolina Kid and lady stars Donna Day and Debbie Combs.

Superstars Wrestling is a promotion headed by George Cannon and Al Costello that regularly presents cards in Detroit's Cobo Hall and also in other parts of Michigan, Ohio, and Ontario. Bobo Brazil is recognized as U.S. Champion and he recently defended that title against the challenge of Austin Idol. Greg Wojokowski holds the group's Canadian Championship. Chris Carter recently defeated Mohammad Saad in the finals of an elimination tournament to become the recognized junior heavyweight champion.

Others who have appeared on Superstar cards during the past month include The Mighty Igor, Moondog King, Hans Schroeder, Domenic DeNucci, Johnny Valiant, Frankie Laine, Billy Jackson, Ben Justice, John White, The Mongol, Hans Mueller, Whipper Watson Jr., Joe Cagle, Bob Sabre, Randy Scott, The Hangman, El Santo #1, The Patriot, Sonny Rogers, Jerry Graham Jr., Rick Bolton, Iron Mike Anthony, Smasher Stone, Troy Alexander, Pat Massey, Fred Curry, John Bonello, Zoltan Thunder, Buddy Donovan, Bobby Golden, Roberto Sanchez, Natcho Rivera, Rich Young, Gaylord Fontaine, Alex Gerard, Kevin Clayton, Bolo Mongol, Traitor Hampton, and lady wrestlers Vivian St. John, Sherri Martel, Judy Martin, and Kandi Maloy.



JOHNNY HUNTER AND DEBBIE COMBS

World Wrestling Association promotion is based in Indianapolis, Indiana. We understand that Harley Race has captured the W.W.A. Heavyweight Championship from Bobo Brazil. Wilbur Snyder & Spike Huber are the W.W.A. tag champions and they recently defended that title against the challenge of The Hooded Hangman & The Great Abdullah. The W.W.A. presents cards in Illinois and Ohio as well as Indiana. Others who have appeared on W.W.A. cards during the past month include Chief Jay Silvercloud, Bobby Gordon, Zoltan the Great, Tiny Hampton, J. R. and Hoss Hogg, Buddy Donovan, Steve Regal, Sheik Ali Hassan, The Black Saint, Tom Lynch, Jerry Valiant, Ben Cagle, Jerry Gray, and Dick the Bruiser. Lady wrestlers Diane von Hoffman and Candi Devine; and midget grapplers Tiny Dynamite and Little Satan have also appeared. Sam Menacker heads up this promotion.

International Wrestling Federation: We have some conflicting reports on this organization. One said that the group was going to split apart with two promotions forming while another said that the New England part and the Ohio-Pennsylvania part are two completely separate organizations and always have been. We are uncertain as to where the complete truth lies. We also had one report that Sam Menacker and Bruno Sammartino Sr. had become co-anchors of the I.W.F. television program and another report that Mr. Menacker was no longer involved in the I.F.W. promotion. We will do our best to pass on what reports we do have and will include any news of a split up between these organizations in our next issue if we receive it. Per last reports we have, the champions recognized by the I.W.F. are: Killer Kowalski - heavyweight, Dan Petty & Richard Byrne - tag team, Zoltan the great - junior heavyweight, and Domenic DeNucci - Ohio state. Others who have appeared on I.W.F. cards recently include Mike McGhee, Tony Griggs, Chief Jay Silvercloud, John DiBiase, Buddy Donovan, Gary Russell, Tiny Hampton, John Benello, Whipper Watson Jr., Ed Bonzo, Chief War Cloud, The Beast, Larry Zbyszko, Rocky Jones, Hans Schroeder, Ron Shaw, Jerry Johnson, Manuel Soto, Bruno Sammartino Jr., Johnny Valiant, The Mongolian, Ginger the Bear, Rocco Verona, The Bonecracker, Robin Wonder, J. W. Hawk, Rocky Raymond, Jerry Fazio, Mike Sciulli, Billy Berger, Gypsy Rodriguez, Larry Winter, Davey O'Hannon, Jack Raven, and midget grapplers The Haiti Kid, Little Boy Blue, Lone Eagle, and Little Tokyo.

Eastern Wrestling Association is based in Lexington, North Carolina, and presents wrestling regularly in that state. Johnny Hunter is recognized as Eastern U.S. Heavyweight Champion. Others who have appeared here recently include Brute Bernard, Bobby Graham, Bruce & Jim Gallagher, Sir Rickton Link, Gene Ligon, The Scufflin' Hillybilly, Buddy and Mike Shane and lady wrestlers Candi Devine, Debbie Combs, Kandi Maloy, White Venus, and Candy Rich.

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American Wrestling Federation: As we understand it this promotion presents professional wrestling regularly in the Carolinas and Georgia. It is headed by Charlie Babb and Ron Martinez and according to our reports it was originally part of the now defunct International Wrestling Association that was then headed by Eddie Einhorn and Pedro Martinez (Ron's father). The champions recognized by the A.W.F. at last report were: Lars Anderson - heavyweight, The Masked Crusaders - tag team, Tony Robinson - junior heavyweight, and Whipper Watson Jr. - U.S. heavyweight. Others who have appeared recently include Brute Bernard, Jimmy Savage, Barry Hill, Jim Tucker, Dale Fargo, The Mighty Igor, and Bulldog Brower. Also lady wrestlers The Fabulous Moolah, Donna Christanello, Susan Sterling, and The White Venus.

B & J Wrestling Enterprises: This organization is based in Yancyville, North Carolina, and runs small cards in that area according to our reports. Mr. Outlaw is the singles champion. Other names on recent cards include The Outlaws, The Bolos, Dr. Jarro, and Cowboy Gaddis .

Independent Wrestlers Union is based in Franklin, Tennessee, Joey Rossi is recognized as champion. Other names on recent cards include The Bounty Hunters, Marcial Bovee, Kenny Eaton, Tommy Heggy, Bob Elliot, Jeff Carter, The Intern, Harvey Lee, and Lumberjack Lanier.

THE WHITE VENUS

THE MIGHTY IGOR

United Wrestling Alliance is active in Ohio and West Virginia. Marcial Bovee is recognized as junior heavyweight champion and the West Virginia titleholder is The Incredible Bulk. Other active wrestlers include Crusher Hamilton and The Gladiator.

Western States Wrestling Alliance: Jody Arnold is recognized as U.S. Champion. John Ringer regained the state title following the retirement of Tony Hernandez. The Lumberjacks are the tag team champions. Christopher Henderson recently defeated Marcial Bovee to win the regional Southern belt here and then defended it against Red Smith. Others who have appeared in the area recently include The Exorcist, The Mask, Pedro El Grande, Ron Newstrome, and lady wrestlers Arizona Red and The Angels of Darkness.

Brian Dixon Promotion: From S. H. Barker comes a note that on this independent British promotion Tony St. Clair (who already had recognition as British Heavyweight Champion) defeated John Quinn to win recognition there as World's Heavyweight Champion. He ads that Count Bartellie was recently put in the hospital as a result of a match with Klondyke in which Bartelli's neck was injured. Mr. Barker also sent along some notes on some other promotions which I will cover right here. **Joint Promotions,** also in Britain, saw Wayne Bridges retain his version of the heavyweight title by defeating Pete Roberts. Mick McManus announced his retirement after wrestling Catweazle to a draw on a Joint show at Royal Albert Hall. Others appearing recently for this group were Mark Rocco, Kwik Kik Lee, Ray Steele, Crusher Brannigan, Alan Dennison, Steve Logan, Big Daddie, Tom Tyrone, Haystacks, Ian Muir, Colin Bennett, Kid Chocolate, Jan Curtis, Johnny Apollo, Pat Roach, Bill Bromley, Sid Cooper, Mick McMichael, Dave Findlay, David Smith, King Ben, and Pat Patton.....Mr. Barker also mentioned that Otto Wanz of Austria, who is recognized as heavyweight champion on the continent, recently defeated "Big Bad" Bobby Duncum in a title bout there and that Wanz now plans to travel to America where he will challenge A.W.A. World's Heavyweight Champion Nick Bockwinkel....Another recent German promotion in Hanover (under the direction of Arpad Weber) featured Mal Kirk, Wild Angus, Yasu Fuji, Monty Swann, Don Pallmer, Johnny Kincaid, Hans Roocks, Don Goya, Angel Grey, and Mamdou Farach according to Barker.

CONCLUSION

That completes this trip "On And Around The Mat World" which was as always as complete as I was able to make it with the information available to me. There are some gaps, which I mentioned in it. Specifically right at the moment we are very much in need of regular correspondents who can supply us with news from Africia (where we know that at least Nigeria and South Africa have regular pro grappling), from Australia, from Pakistan, from India, and from France. Also, we could us more regular reports from western Canada (Alberta, Saskatchewan), from Hawaii, from Mexico, and from the rest of central and South America. If you are able to help us with those areas or with any other areas as well, please do so. Just send your information along with clippings and programs to: The Wrestling News Area Close-Ups, P.O. Box 3325, Mankato, Minnesota 56002. I do want to thank the following who this month did help us out. They are Jim Ross, Kathy Dowd, John Olsen, Boyd Pierce, Ray Kelly, Mario Reyes, Frank Garcia, Pat Malone, Koichi Yoshizawa, Walt Jefferies, Dick Lankford, Tony Miller, Don Valenti, Tony Sebio, Leonard J. Orner, Steve Stogdale, Charles J. Augustoni III, Doug Chambers, Richard Prindle, Chuck Thorton, Jay West, David Williamson, Ken Jugan, Eloise Mascorro, Diane Devine, Larry Matycik, Patrick O'Hara, Christine Olson, George Hill, Allan Cooper, Ron Hutchison, Kevin Hancer, Pat Massey, Dale Pierce, John Robinson, and Jim Stafford. Without their help this column would not be possible, and with even more help in the future we can make this column even better. So, anyone who can help us please do so. Remember that the address is: The Wrestling News Area Close-Ups, P. O. Box 3325, Mankato, Minnesota 56002.

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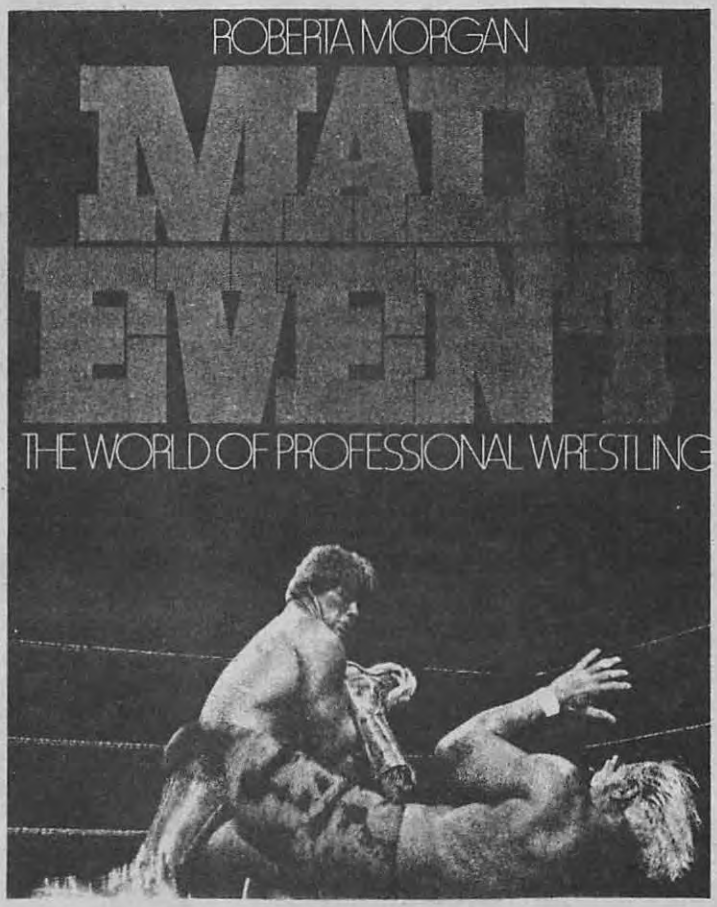

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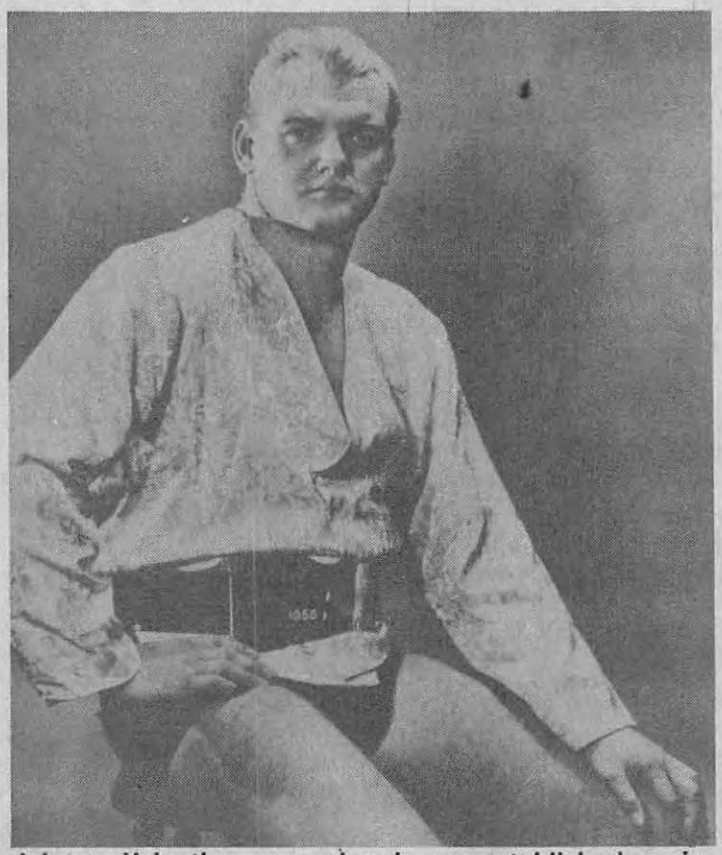
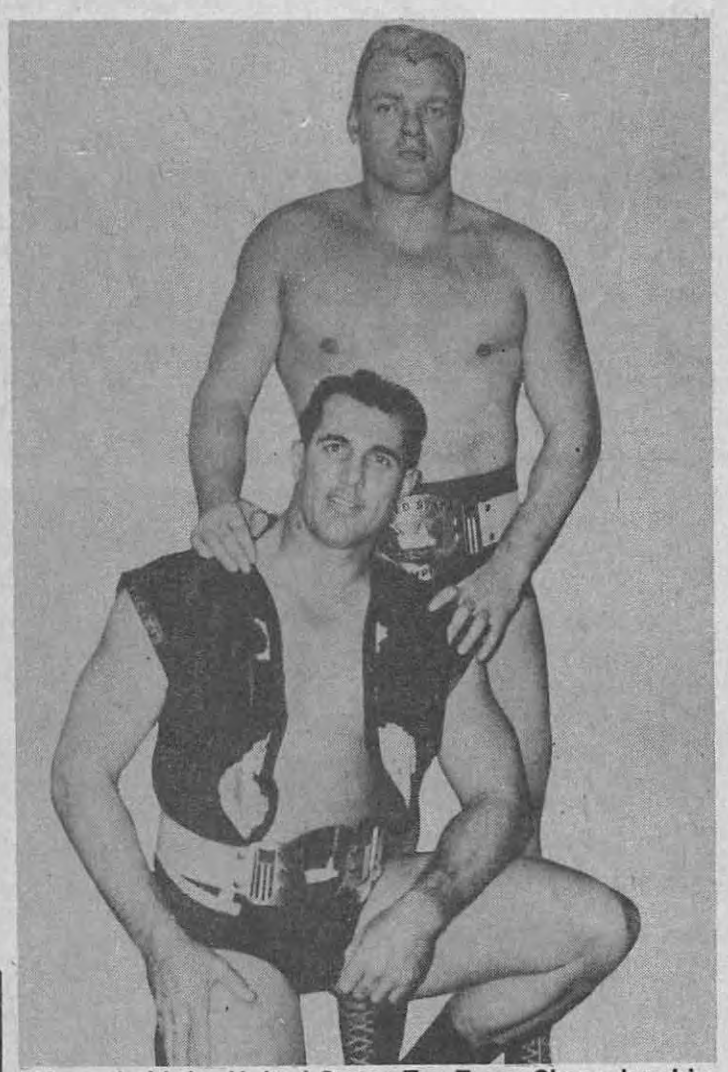
REMEMBERING JOHNNY VALENTINE

By James C. Melby



Johnny Valentine was already an established main eventer and holder of many championships when this photo was taken. In fact he was a top notch competitor almost from the start of his illustrious career, which was ended by a crippling airplane crash.

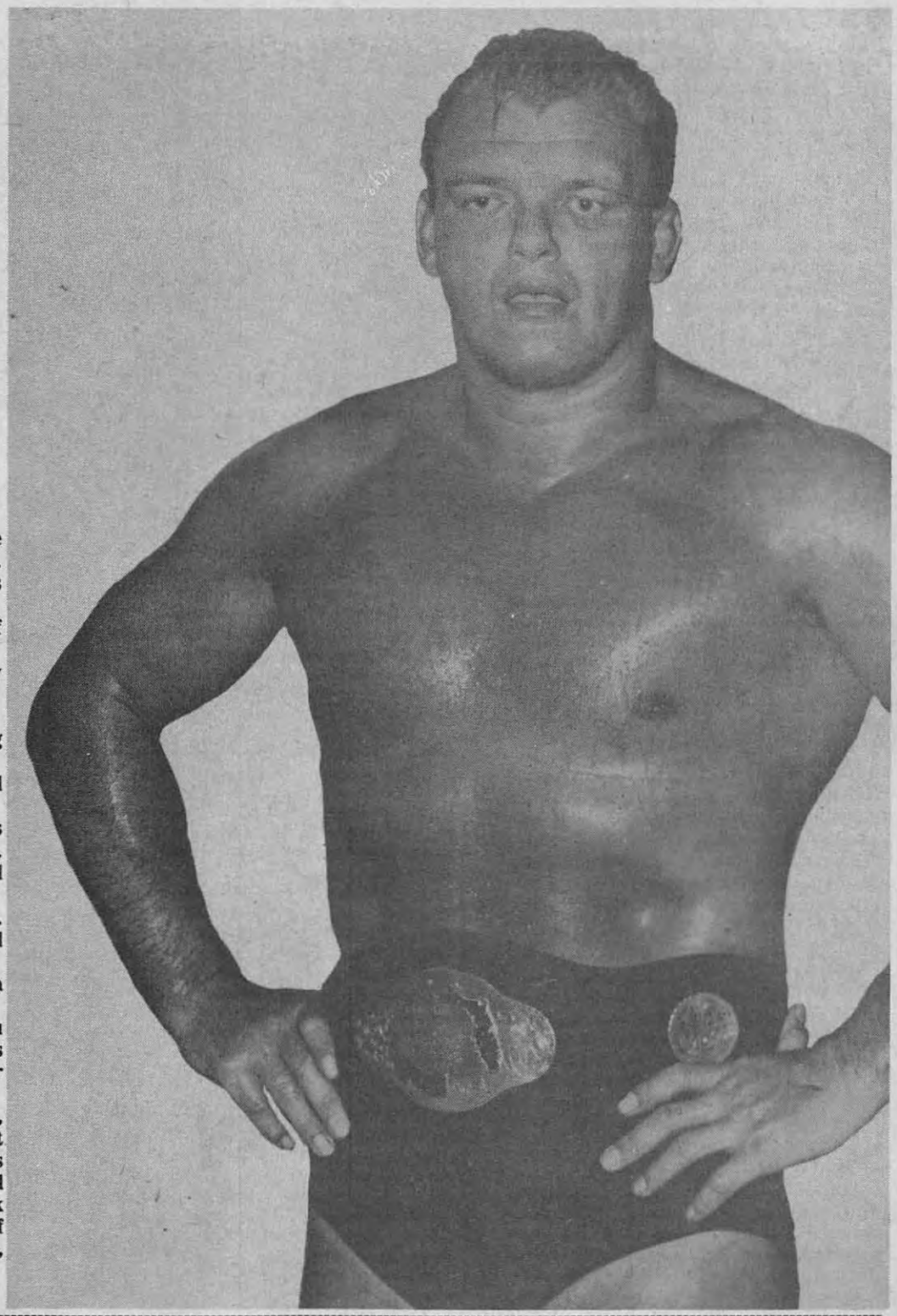


Johnny held the United States Tag Team Championship with Cowboy Bob Ellis, after they upbended The Fabulous Kangaroos(Al Costello and Roy Heffernan.)

Valentine took one on the jaw from "Nature Boy" Buddy Rogers when the two clashed during a tag team event held in New York's Madison Square Garden.

Johnny's famous trademark move, "The Brainbuster," put an end to Sailor Al Clark in their Buffalo, New York ring encounter.

JOHNNY VALENTINE'S SCHOOL OF WRESTLING CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL



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BUCK ZUM HOFE BRINGS THE ROCK AND ROLL ERA TO PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING

Photos By Bruce Krietzman **By Kathy Dowd**

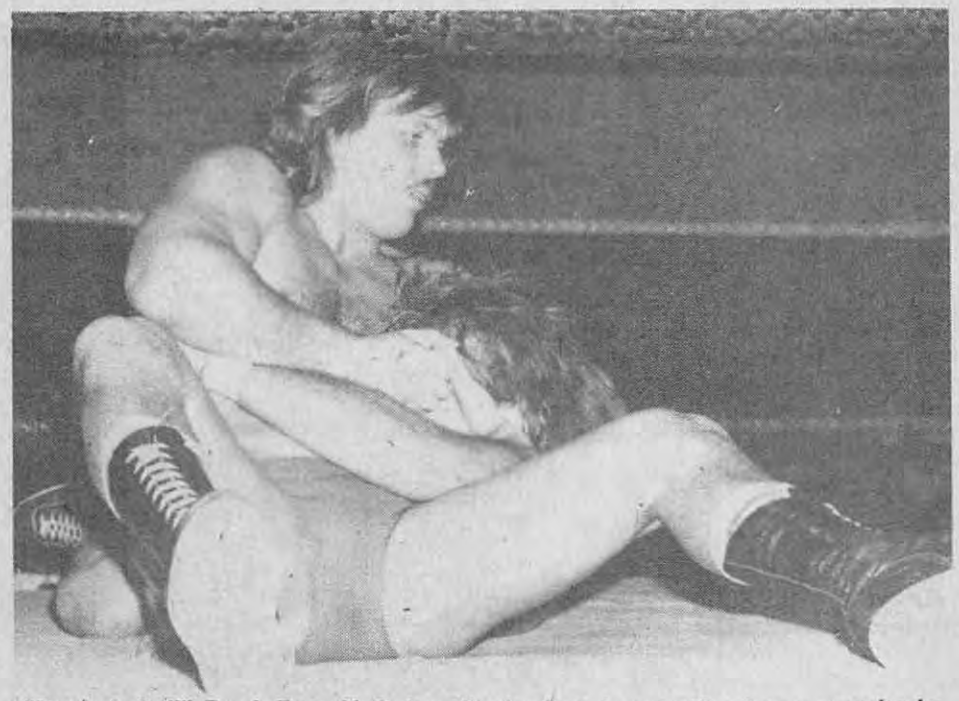
In the middle of the 1950's a change took place in the world of music. Instead of more classical or country or jazz music, there began a new sound. It began spreading like WILDFIRE. They called it ROCK AND ROLL. Music groups and singers saw how excited people would get when guys like Elvis Presley started rocking and rolling with that loud music blaring in the microphones. After Elvis came Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, The Beatles, The Rolling Stones and The Beach Boys. Posters, photos, buttons and fan clubs came out honoring and backing the music of rock and roll. They claim it's here to stay and judging by all the musical groups they have today performing rock and roll songs, I think they are right.

Every facet of life has rock and roll in it. Soap operas have rock star characters, t.v. shows have rock stars either hosting or performing on them, concerts are sold out yearly by the most popular rock groups of the scene and professional wrestling itself has a rock and roll star. He is the very popular Buck "Rock and Roll" Zum Hofe.

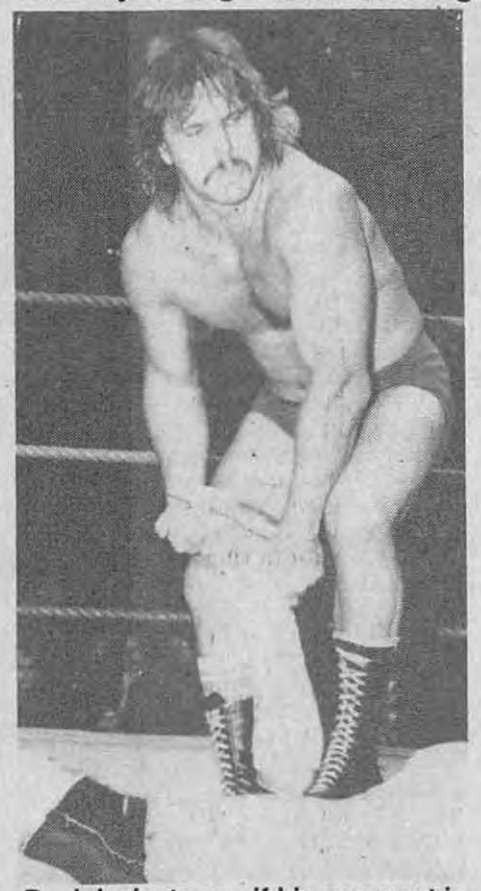
Born in March of 1955 in Arlington, Minnesota, Zum Hofe began wrestling at a very young age. "I started wrestling in the seventh grade. We just wrestled each other. Then in high school I wrestled with other schools. Finally I made it to wrestle in the region at the state competition and also wrestled one year in college. Then I wrestled in amateur federations. I tried out for the Olympics, although I didn't make it. Brad Rheingans and I wrestled each other while in high school. Those guys made the U.S. team and you might say that I'm the one that didn't cut the ice.

Aside from wrestling in high school this two hundred and ten pounder also played baseball. Even though he was from a small town of 350 people, Buck still feels that, "We had a heck of a great baseball team. They would choose two players from each town until they had the number of players needed. The year I graduated we did go to the state finals. By the way, I was the catcher."

When a wrestler becomes a main eventer and they have been in wrestling for quite some time they tend to spot out young people who could go far in wrestling as a professional. For Buck that person happened to be the English sensation,



"Rock & Roll" Buck Zum Hofe headlocks Sgt. Jacque Goulet, a man he is currently feuding with in A.W.A. rings.

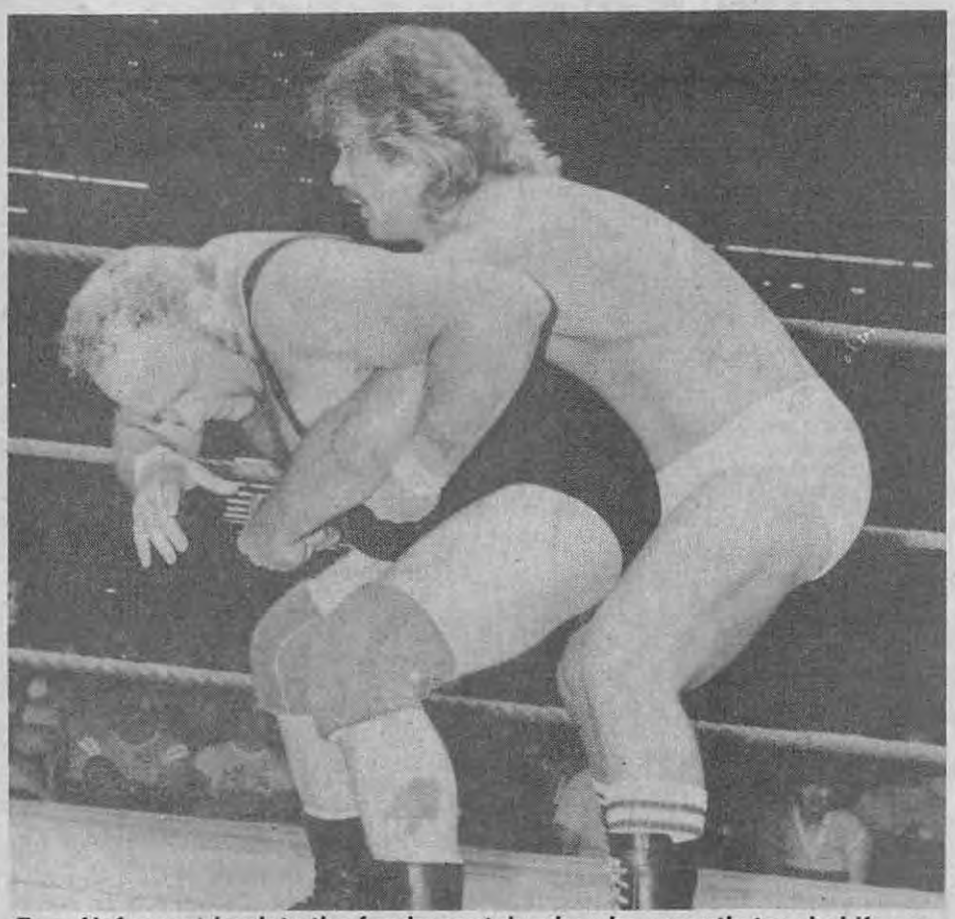


Buck looks to see if his opponent is going to concede before applying more pressure.

Billy Robinson. "Well, Billy Robinson first saw me at a tournament in Minnesota and asked if I wanted to come down to a YMCA and workout and so I went. Soon he introduced me to Verne Gagne and naturally I met Greg and Jim Brunzell. They all helped me a lot, and then I traveled and wrestled against a variety of people."

"Didn't Olympic star Khosrow Vazari help train you also?" I asked as I recalled an article that had been done about Verne Gagne's training camp several years prior in WRESTLING NEWS. "Yes, he did help quite a bit with the converting of the amatuer style to the professional style. He was a great amateur Greco-Roman wrestler. He helped by showing us the pressure holds."

Wrestling soon became Buck's career and it looks as though he is well on his way of getting to the top of pro wrestling. When he first started out as a wrestler Buck had mixed feelings. "It's like Wow, now I'm on T.V. and traveling to all these different cities. You are always EXCITED, SCARED AND NERVOUS. You don't know if a promoter like Wally Karbo will put you against a really mean guy or one who wrestles by the rules. When you first start out in wrestling you're just glad to wrestle whenever and whoever it is they put you against. Even if it is a person like Mad Dog Vachon or Nick



Zum Hofe went back to the fundamentals when he recently toppled Kenny "Sodbuster" Jay in a St. Paul, Minnesota encounter.

Bockwinkel. You just want to get yourself a name. And once you get the support and backing of the crowd it's a little easier. But not that much!"

After awhile in the midwest, Buck decided it was time to travel and get his career going full guns. He left Minnesota and traveled to several different parts of the world including British Columbia, other parts of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Hawaii. Hawaii is where it all started to come together for this young man. With his youth, lightness of foot, and fast paced style, Buck took Hawaii by storm. "It was great. When I was in the islands we wrestled every other weekend on the other islands besides Honolulu. Once a month we would wrestle in the Neil Blaisdell Center Arena, which is their big arena over there. Many times we would draw real good crowds. Many times I would have the people going crazy with my "Rock and Roll" music. Plus the weather was great. I lived there for one full year, and wrestled off and on there the next couple of years. I wrestled quite a few Samaons while I was there. Also I teamed quite a bit with the Francis brothers, Russ and Bill. While in Hawaii, by the way, I was the Hawaiian State Tag Team Champion with Bill Francis. We held it for about three months. I was also tag team champion in British Columia."

Match by match, night by night, week by week and month by month went by and Buck totally has kept improving himself. And how does he do it? "Well, again we're going back to the basics. You pick some wrestler who's been successful and you watch what he does. If he does a really good move, you try it, but maybe add something to it. Even Nick Bockwinkel, although he is a ring ruffian, has some real good moves. Sometimes you steal a move and add your touches to it. I'm not physical strong, but I am in good shape. It doesn't matter how strong you are once you are out of breath, anyone can beat you then. You might say that I have a full tank of gas always." Watching him in the ring after a few matches, one must totally agree with him. He does have a full tank of energy. Never once will you see him stay in one hold for very long, as he is always on the go. Maybe that is why the seasoned veterans are watching this young star with intense caution. They want to be ready for his fast pace, go get'em style of wrestling. Not many can keep up with Buck.

It was also in Hawaii where Buck picked up the nickname "Rock and Roll" and his very impressive selection of colorful eye dazzling ring wardrobe. "The nickname started in Hawaii. I've always wiggled, even when I was an amateur, and then the people started saying, 'Hey, rock and roll, get with it!' Then some friends started making me jackets with ornate designs on them. Then I added in the jumpsuits and it all came together. Finally I added the radio and music and that's where I am today."

Buck returned to the A.W.A. wrestling rings in 1980 and from match one it's been all up hill. He came back a matured, well developed professional wrestler with a fast paced wrestling style that sometimes puts The High Flyers to shame. He has wrestled men from Nick Bockwinkel to Sgt. Jacque Goulet to countless T.V. wrestlers to a man that really gets his blood flowing, Bobby Heenan.

Proving that he could match up with the veterans in the ring the A.W.A. arranged for a series of matches with Jr. Heavyweight champion Mike Graham to meet Buck. Our rock and rolling star tried his hardest, but Graham always had an ace up his sleeve and retained the title.

To Buck the biggest advantage to wrestling is that if you can make the grade, you can become finanically secure. He also thinks the traveling is nice, and knows he can see the world because of his choosen profession. The disadvantage is being on the road for long periods of time, and not being able to see your family.

As a writer people ask me, 'What are the wrestlers like as people?' Buck Zum Hofe sees himself as, "Just basically Buck. I just bought an older home and I am fixing it up. I like to go home and maybe have a few drinks and watch the tube or listen to my stereo. When I'm on the town I like to be a little wilder and have a good time. I like to work around my house. I enjoy being outside with the lawn. I enjoy mowing it. I like bowling, playing tennis. I like to roller skate with my radio. People like to think I'm crazy. Really I'm from a small town so they don't care what I do."

Not only does this young man have a good thing going in the wrestling ring, but he also might someday just turn into a darn good spokesperson for wrestling. Already in his short career he is doing radio station plugs in the Minnesota area. He feels that if he helps plug that radio station, then they in return can plug wrestling by giving it coverage.

Wrestling has seen some mighty colorful and crowd pleasing wrestlers over the years. Today, however, is the age of Rock and Roll and leading the way is Buck Zum Hofe. A very talented, fast paced, go get 'em colorful star of the 1980's. Watch for him to go places, and go there in ROCK AND ROLL STYLE.

T.V. WRESTLING GUIDE

In this section we attempt to list every television wrestling program seen in the United States and Canada. Although we have a fairly complete listing, we do have a few gaps and as television schedules constantly change it is impossible for us to be certain that this schedule is completely up to date and accurate. We might add that although we list these programs by states, some are seen over much larger areas via cable television. With over 20% of the homes in the U.S.A. now connected to a cable system, we should note what programs are seen nationwide. First of all, the W.W.F. wrestling programs on WOR-9 in New York are seen in many other areas via cable, as are W.W.F. live cards in Madison Square Garden and in the Capitol Centre which are, from time to time, televised on the U.S.A. network. Without a doubt as a result of these cablecast, W.W.F. wrestling is now the most widely watched in the United States. And the two weekly Atlanta (N.W.A.) programs on WTBS-17 are also beamed via satellite to cable systems across the country, resulting in a very large viewership of that program as well. You must consult your local television cable company to find out exactly what stations they offer in your area. If there are any wrestling programs that we have failed to list, or have listed incorrectly, we request that you send us the correct information so that we can update and revise our schedule in future issues. Send all television program information to: TV EDITOR, WRESTLING MAGAZINE, BOX 3325, MANKATO, MINNESOTA 56002.

ALABAMA

5-WKRG, MOBILE ..... Sat., 1:00 P.M.
18-WDHN, DOTHAN ..... Sat., 12:30 P.M.
48-WAFF, HUNTSVILLE ..... Sat. 12:30 P.M.
15-WOWL, FLORENCE ..... Sat., 12:00 P.M.
21-WTTO, BIRMINGHAM ..... Sat., 9:00 A.M.
6-WBRC, BIRMINGHAM ..... Sun., 12:30 A.M.
4-WTVY, DOTHAN ..... Sat., 5:00 P.M.
20-WCOV, MONTGOMERY ..... Sat., 10:00 P.M.

ARIZONA

33-KTVW, PHOENIX ..... Sat. 3:30 P.M.

ARKANSAS

4-KARK, LITTLE ROCK ..... Sat. 11:00 A.M.
29-KTVP, FAYETTEVILLE ..... Sun., 1:30 A.M.
29-KTVP, FAYETTEVILLE ..... Sun., 12:30 A.M.

CALIFORNIA

2-KCOX, SAN DIEGO ..... Sat., 2:00 P.M.
2-KCOX, SAN DIEGO ..... Sun., 3:00 P.M.
31-KRBK, SACRAMENTO ..... Sun., 11:00 A.M.
31-KRBK, SACRAMENTO ..... Sun., 9:00 P.M.
19-KLOC, MODESTO ..... Sat., 10:30 P.M.
14-KDTV, SAN FRANCISCO .... Sat., 11:00 A.M.
20-KTZO, SAN FRANCISCO .... Sat., 11:00 A.M.
20-KTZO, SAN FRANCISCO ... Sun., 11:00 A.M.
21-KFTV, HANFORD ..... Sat., 11:30 A.M.
36-KGSC, SAN JOSE ..... Sat., 4:00 P.M.
34-KMEX, LOS ANGELES ..... Sat. 2:00 P.M.

COLORADO

2-KWGN, DENVER ..... Sun., 10:00 A.M.
5-KOAA, PUEBLO ..... Sat., 4:00 P.M.

CONNECTICUT

20-WTXX, WATERBURY ..... Sat., 10:00 P.M.
30-WVIT, HARTFORD ..... Sun., 1:00 P.M.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

20-WDCA, WASHINGTON ..... Sat., 11:00 A.M.

FLORIDA

6-WCIX, MIAMI ..... Sat., 12:00 P.M.
20-WBBH, FORT MYERS ..... Sat., 1:00 P.M.
44-WTOG, ST. PETERSBURG ..... Sat., 8:00 P.M.
44-WTOG, ST. PETERSBURG ..... Sun.,7:00 P.M.
40-WXLT, SARASOTA ..... Sun, 12:00 P.M.
2-WESH, ORLANDO ..... Sat., 1:00 P.M.
9-WFTV, ORLANDO ..... Sat., 1:30 P.M.
12-WTLV, JACKSONVILLE ..... Sat., 12:00 P.M.
17-WJKS, JACKSONVILLE ..... Sun., 1:00 P.M.
30-WAWS, JACKSONVILLE ..... Sat., 11:00 A.M.
27-WECA, TALLAHASSEE ..... Sun., 5:00 P.M.
34-WTVX, FT. PIERCE ..... Sun., 1:15 A.M.
20-WCJB, GAINESVILLE ..... Mon., 12:00 A.M.
12-WPEC, WEST PALM BEACH ..... Sat., 1:30 P.M.

GEORGIA

17-WTBS, ATLANTA ..... Sat., 6:05 P.M.
17-WTBS, ATLANTA ..... Sun., 5:35 P.M.
36-WATL, ATLANTA ..... Sat., 4:00 P.M.
36-WATL, ATLANTA ..... Fri., 10:00 P.M.
41-WCWB, MACON ..... Sat., 1:00 P.M.
12-WRDW, AUGUSTA ..... Sat., 3:00 P.M.
26-WATU, AUGUSTA ..... Sat., 7:00 P.M.
11-WTOC, SAVANNAH ..... Sat., 3:00 P.M.
9-WRBL, COLUMBUS ..... Sat., 4:00 P.M.
38-WYEA, COLUMBUS ..... Sat., 7:00 P.M.

ILLINOIS

44-WSNS, CHICAGO ..... Sun., 12:00 P.M.
26-WCIU, CHICAGO ..... Mon., 8:00 P.M.
13-WREX, ROCKFORD ..... Sun., 11:00 A.M.
19-WRAU, PEORIA ..... Sun., 1:00 P.M.
55-WBHW, SPRINGFIELD ..... Sat., 5:00 P.M.
55-WBHW, SPRINGFIELD ..... Sun.,6:00 P.M.
3-WSIL, HARRISBURG ..... Fri., 11:40 P.M.

INDIANA

55-WFFT, FT. WAYNE ..... Sat., 12:00 P.M.
4-WTTV, INDIANAPOLIS ..... Sat., 10:30 A.M.
4-WTTV, INDIANAPOLIS ..... Sat., 12:30 A.M.
7-WTVW, EVANSVILLE ..... Sat., 3:00 P.M.

IOWA

4-KTIV, SIOUX CITY ..... Sat., 12:00 P.M.
13-WHO, DES MOINES ..... Sat., 12:00 P.M.

KANSAS

2-KCKT, GREAT BEND ..... Sun., 1:00 A.M.
3-KARD, WICHITA ..... Sun, 1:00 A.M.
11-KGLD, GARDEN CITY ..... Sun., 1:00 A.M.
27-KTSB, TOPEKA ..... Sun., 10:00 A.M.

KENTUCKY

57-WKYH, HAZARD ..... Sat., 12:00 P.M.
13-WBKO, BOWLING GREEN ..... Sat., 10:45 P.M.
3-WAVE, LOUISVILLE ..... Sat., 12:00 P.M.
18-WLEX, LEXINGTON ..... Sat., 12:00 P.M.
41-WDRB, LOUISVILLE ..... Sat., 11:30 A.M.
62-WTVQ, LEXINGTON ..... Sat., 11:30 P.M.

LOUISIANA

10-KFLY, LAFAYETTE ..... Sat., 11:00 A.M.
26-WGNO, NEW ORLEANS ..... Sat., 6:00 P.M.
26-WGNO, NEW ORLEANS ..... Sat., 11:00 P.M.
5-KALB, ALEXANDRIA ..... Sun., 9:00 A.M.
10-KTVE, MONROE ..... Sun. 10:15 P.M.
3-KTBS-SHREVEPORT ..... Sun., 4:00 P.M.
7-KPLC, LAKE CHARLES ..... Sat., 12:00 P.M.
9-WAFB, BATON ROUGE ..... Sat., 2:00 P.M.

MAINE

13-WGAN, PORTLAND ..... Sat., 12:00 A.M.
5-WABI, BANGOR .. Sun., 12:15 A.M.

MARYLAND

45-WBFF, BALTIMORE ..... Sat., 4:00 P.M.
25-WHAG, HAGGERSTOWN ..... Sat., 2:00 P.M.
47-WMDT, SALISBURY ..... Sun., 1:00 P.M.

MASSACHUSETTS

22-WWLP, SPRINGFIELD ..... Sat., 1:00 P.M.
27-WSMW, WORCESTER ..... Sat., 12:00 P.M.
56-WLVI, BOSTON ..... Sat., 12:00 P.M.
68-WQTV, BOSTON ..... Sun., 12:00 P.M.
25-WXNE, BOSTON ..... Sun., 11:00 A.M.

MICHIGAN

62-WGPR, DETROIT ..... Sat., 4:30 P.M.
31-WIHT, ANN ARBOR ..... Sat., 9:30 A.M.
22-WEYI, SAGINAW ..... Sat., 12:00 P.M.

MINNESOTA

9-KMSP, MINNEAPOLIS ..... Sun., 11:00 A.M.
9-KMSP, MINNEAPOLIS ..... Mon., 11:30 P.M.
7-KCMT, ALEXANDRIA ..... Sat., 11:30 P.M.

MISSISSIPPI

12-WJTV, JACKSON ..... Sat., 1:00 P.M.
13-WLOX, BILOXI ..... Sun., 4:00 P.M.
9-WTVA, TUPELO ..... Sat., 12:00 P.M.
6-WABG, GREENWOOD ..... Sat., 12:30 P.M.

MISSOURI

41-KBMA, KANSAS CITY ..... Sun., 8:30 A.M.
41-KBMA, KANSAS CITY ..... Mon., 12:00 A.M.
11-KPLR, ST. LOUIS ..... Sun., 11:00 A.M.
11-KPLR, ST. LOUIS ..... Sun., 2:30 A.M.
17-KCBJ, COLUMBIA ..... Sun., 12:15 A.M.
2-KQTV, ST. JOSEPH Sat., 12:30 P.M.

NEBRASKA

7-KETV, OMAHA ..... Fri., 12:10 A.M.
7-KETV, OMAHA ..... Sat., 12:30 A.M.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

9-WMUR, MANCHESTER ..... Sun., 1:00 P.M.

NEW JERSEY

41-WXTV, PATTERSON ..... Sun., 12:00 A.M.
41-WXTV,PATTERSON ..... Sun., 2:30 A.M.
41-WXTV, PATTERSON ..... Sat., 2:30 PM.
47-WNJU, NEWARK ..... Mon., 11:30 P.M.
47-WNJU, NEWARK ..... Fri., 11:30 P.M.
68-WWHT, NEWARK ..... Sat., 8:00 A.M.

NEW MEXICO

7-KOAT, ALBUQUERQUE ..... Sun., 10:00 A.M.
12-KMCC, CLOVIS ..... Sun., 3:00 P.M.
12-KIVA, FARMINGTON ..... SurL, 11:00 A.M.

NEW YORK

9-WOR, NEW YORK CITY ..... Sun., 12:00 A.M.
9-WOR, NEW YORK CITY ..... Sat., 11:00 A.M.
34-WMGC, BINGHAMTON ..... Sat., 11:00 P.M.
29-WUTV, BUFFALO ..... Sat., 12:00 P.M.
2-WGR, BUFFALO ..... Sun., 1:00 A.M.
67-WSNL, SMITHTOWN ..... Sat., 8:00 A.M.
60-WGOA, NEW YORK CITY ..... Sat., 8:00 A.M.
20-WUTR, UTICA ..... Sun., 1:00 P.M.

NORTH CAROLINA

36-WRET, CHARLOTTE ..... Sat., 1:00 P.M.
13-WLOS, ASHVILLE ..... Sat., 7:00 P.M.
14-WHKY, HICKORY ..... Sat., 11:00 P.M.
14-WHKY, HICKORY ..... Sat., 11:30 A.M.
8-WGHP, HIGH POINT ..... Sat. 2:00 P.M.
12-WXII, WINSTON-SALEM ..... Sat., 12:00 P.M.
7-WITN, WASHINGTON ..... Sat., 5:00 P.M.
5-WRAL, RALEIGH ..... Sat., 11:30 P.M.
12-WCTI, NEW BERNE ..... Sat., 7:00 P.M.
12-WCTI, NEW BERNE ..... Sat., 12:30 A.M.
36-WPCQ, CHARLOTTE ..... Sat., 5:00 P.M.
3-WWAY, WILMINGTON ..... Sat., 2:00 P.M.
11-WTVD, DURHAM ..... Sat., 3:00 P.M.
40-WKFT, FAYETTEVILLE ..... Sat., 7:00 P.M.

NORTH DAKOTA

4-KXJB, FARGO ..... Sat., 11:00 P.M

OHIO

9-WTOV, STUBENVILLE ..... Sat., 4:00 P.M.
23-WAKR, AKRON ..... Sat., 12:30 A.M.
22-WKEF, DAYTON ..... Sat., 12:00 P.M.
64-WBTI, CINCINNATI ..... Sat., 11:00 A.M.
5-WLWT, CINCINNATI ..... Sat., 12:00 P.M.

OKLAHOMA

2-KTEW, TULSA ..... Sat., 12:00 P.M.
34-KGMC, OKLAHOMA CITY .... Thur., 11:30 P.M.

OREGON

12-KPTV, PORTLAND ..... Sat., 8:30 P.M.

PENNSYLVANIA

22-WPTT, PITTSBURGH ..... Sat., 5:00 P.M.
22-WPTT, PITTSBURGH ..... Thur., 10:00 P.M.
29-WTAF, PHILADELPHIA ..... Sat., 11:00 A.M.
17-WPHL, PHILADELPHIA ..... Sat., 12:00 P.M.
19-WJNL, JOHNSTOWN ..... Sat., 6:00 P.M.
51-WTVE, READING ..... Sat., 7:00 P.M.

RHODE ISLAND

12-WPRI, PROVIDENCE ..... Sat., 1:30 P.M.

SOUTH CAROLINA

4-WFBC, GREENVILLE ..... Sat., 1:00 P.M.
2-WCBD, CHARLESTON ..... Sat., 11:15 P.M.
4-WCIV, CHARLESTON ..... Sat., 1:00 P.M.
19-WLTX, COLUMBIA ..... Sat., 12:30 P.M.
25-WOLO, COLUMBIA ..... Sat., 11:45 P.M.
13-WBTW, FLORENCE ..... Sat., 2:00 P.M.
15-WPDE, FLORENCE ..... Sat., 11:15 P.M.

TENNESSEE

3-WRCB, CHATTANOOGA ..... Sat., 11:00 A.M.
12-WDEF, CHATTANOOGA ..... Sat., 12:00 P.M.
17-WZTV, NASHVILLE ..... Sat., 5:00 P.M.
5-WTVF, NASHVILLE ..... Sat., 2:00 P.M.
24-WPPY, MEMPHIS ..... Sat., 9:00 P.M.
10-WBIR, KNOXVILLE ..... Sat., 2:00 P.M.
11-WJHL, JOHNSON CITY ..... Sat., 12:00 P.M.
55-WCPT, CROSSVILLE ..... Sat., 7:00 P.M.
5-WMC, MEMPHIS ..... Sat., 11:00 A.M.
7-WBBJ, JACKSON ..... Sat., 10:30 P.M.
26-WTVK, KNOXVILLE ..... Sat., 12:30 P.M.
55-WCPT, CROSSVILLE ..... Sun., 4:00 P.M.
55-WCPT, CROSSVILLE ..... Mon., 8:00 P.M.
24-WPTY, MEMPHIS ..... Sat., 10:00 A.M.
61-WRIP, CHATTANOOGA ..... Sat., 1:30 P.M.

TEXAS

39-KHTV, HOUSTON ..... Sat., 10:30 P.M.
39-KHTV, HOUSTON ..... Sun., 11:00 P.M.
28-KORO, CORPUS CHRISTI ..... Sat., 5:00 P.M.
41-KWEX, SAN ANTONIO ..... Sat., 5:00 P.M.
4-KMOL, SAN ANTONIO ..... Sat., 12:00 A.M.
11-KTVT, FORT WORTH ..... Sat., 10:30 P.M.
39-KXTX, DALLAS ..... Sat., 7:00 P.M.
24-KVUE, AUSTIN ..... Sat., 12:30 P.M.
4-KDBC, EL PASO ..... Sun., 10:30 P.M.
10-KFDA, AMARILLO ..... Sat., 6:00 P.M.
28-KAMC, LUBBOCK ..... Sun., 4:00 P.M.
2-KMID, MIDLAND ..... Sat., 11:00 P.M.
4-KGBT, HARLINGEN ..... Sat., 11:30 P.M.
19-KXIX, VICTORIA ..... Sat., 1:30 P.M.

UTAH

4-KTVX, SALT LAKE CITY ..... Sat., 11:30 A.M.

VIRGINIA

5-WCYB, BRISTOL ..... Sat., 1:00 P.M.
10-WAVY, NORFOLK ..... Sat., 6:30 P.M.
10-WAVY, NORFOLK ..... Sun., 3:00 A.M.
6-WTVR, RICHMOND ..... Sat., 12:30 A.M.
29-WVIR, CHARLOTTESVILLE ..... Sat., 3:00 P.M.
10-WSLS, ROANOKE ..... Sat., 1:00 P.M.
13-WSET, LYNCHBURG ..... Sat., 11:15 P.M.

WASHINGTON

13-KCPQ, TACOMA ..... Sat., 12:00 P.M.

WEST VIRGINIA

4-WOAY, OAK HILL ..... Sun., 3:00 P.M.

WISCONSIN

4-WTMJ, MILWAUKEE ..... Sat., 12:00 A.M.
4-WTMJ, MILWAUKEE ..... Sun., 10:00 A.M.
13-WEAU, EAU CLAIRE ..... Sun., 11:30 P.M.
11-WLUK, GREEN BAY ..... Sat., 11:00 P.M.

ALBERTA

7-CFAC, LETHBRIDGE ..... Sat., 3:00 P.M.
2-CFAE, CALGARY ..... Sat., 3:30 P.M.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

6-CHEK, VICTORIA ..... Sat., 11:30 A.M.
8-BCTV, VANCOUVER ..... Sat., 3:00 P.M.
21-CKVU, VANCOUVER ..... Sun., 11:00 A.M.

MANITOBA

5-CKY, WINNIPEG ..... Sat., 2:00 P.M.
12-CKND, WINNIPEG ..... Sat., 6:00 P.M.
12-CKND, WINNIPEG ..... Sun., 1:00 P.M.
13-CABE, WINNIPEG ..... Mon., 7:00 P.M.

NEW BRUNSWICK

9-CKCW, MONCTON ..... Sat., 7:00 P.M.

ONTARIO

11-CHCH, HAMILTON ..... Sat., 1:00 P.M.
79-CITV, TORONTO ..... Sat., 2:00 P.M.
3-CKUR, BARRIE ..... Sat., 2:00 P.M.
22-CLOB, TORONTO ..... Sat., 11:30 A.M.
9-CBET, WINDSOR ..... Sat., 1:00 P.M.
42-CKCO, KITCHENER ..... Sat., 2:00 P.M.

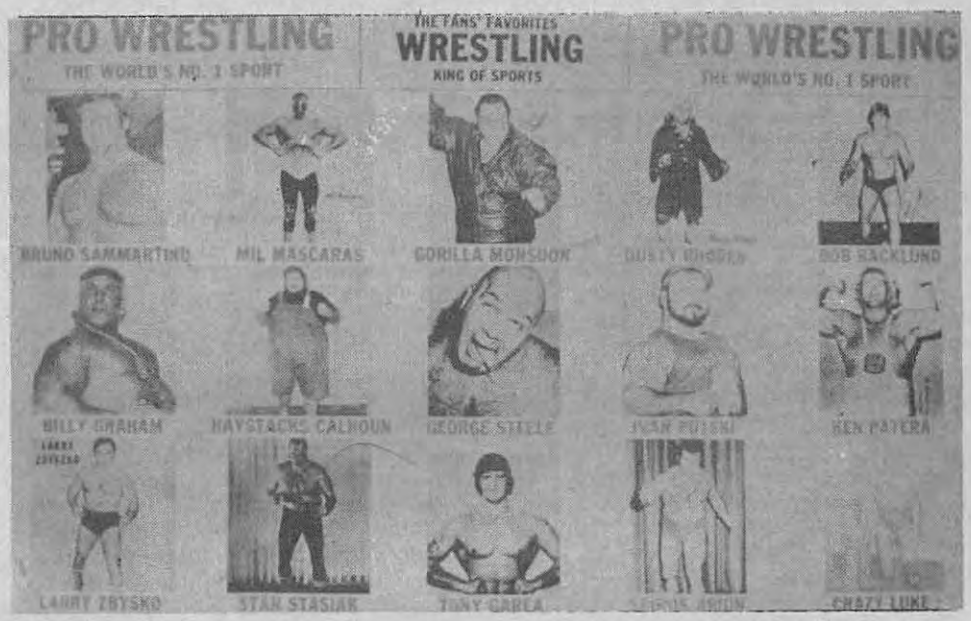
QUEBEC

7-CHLT, SHERBROOKE ..... Sun., 10:30 A.M.

PUERTO RICO

4-WAPA, SAN JUAN ..... Sun., 4:00 P.M.
7-WLUZ, SAN JUAN ..... Sat., 6:00 P.M.

WE HAVE YOUR FAVORITE WRESTLER...



AND NOW YOU CAN HAVE HIM TOO.

They're all here, 15 of the all-time greats, from A to Z: Arion, Bruno, Mils, Gorilla, Dusty, Haystacks, "The Animal", Putski, Patera, Stasiak, Crazy Luke, Rhodes, Backlund, Zybysko . . . And they can be yours for only $3.95.

That's right, for *only* $3.95 you can have this exciting three-color genuine arena poster, measuring a gigantic 24″ x 14″. But hurry, the supple is limited.

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Ring's Wrestling Magazine
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New York, N.Y. 10001

Yes, I am a wrestling fan. And to prove it, I have enclosed a check or money order for $3.95 (plus $1.00 for postage and handling). Please rush my gigantic/wrestling poster of the 15 great to:

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

JOHNNY SAINT - WORLD LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMP

By Evan R. Treharne

World lightweight wrestling champion Johnny Saint first took to the roped square as an amateur boxer, and trained by the champion heavyweight boxer Alf Robinson, uncle to heavyweight wrestler Billy Robinson. Wrestling fans need no introduction to the latter, as Billy cleaned up all opposition in Great Britain, then went over to the U.S.A., Canada and Japan, where he is today very successful.

Johnny Saint turned to professional wrestling at the age of 18 years, and much of his success is due to the training from Jack Taylor the triple-lightweight champion. Jack is still wrestling today, but nearer to being a heavy-middleweight these days.

Johnny took the title as world champion six years ago when the title was vacant on the retirement of George Kidd, the grand little Scot, who won the world crown as far back as 1951, when he beat the Mexican Rudi Quarez. Johnny, like George Kidd, fully believes in 100% physical fitness, and even when facing up to men as much as 50 lb. heavier than himself, Johnny comes off best. In fact, many good lightweights find it easier to venture into the welterweight ranks than have too much to do with Saint. There is one exception in Steve Grey the British lightweight champion, whom Johnny has found a very difficult man to contain in non-title bouts, but he got the better of Grey in a title match. He has tangled numerous times against Johnny Saint, and each and every bout has been extremely closely contested.

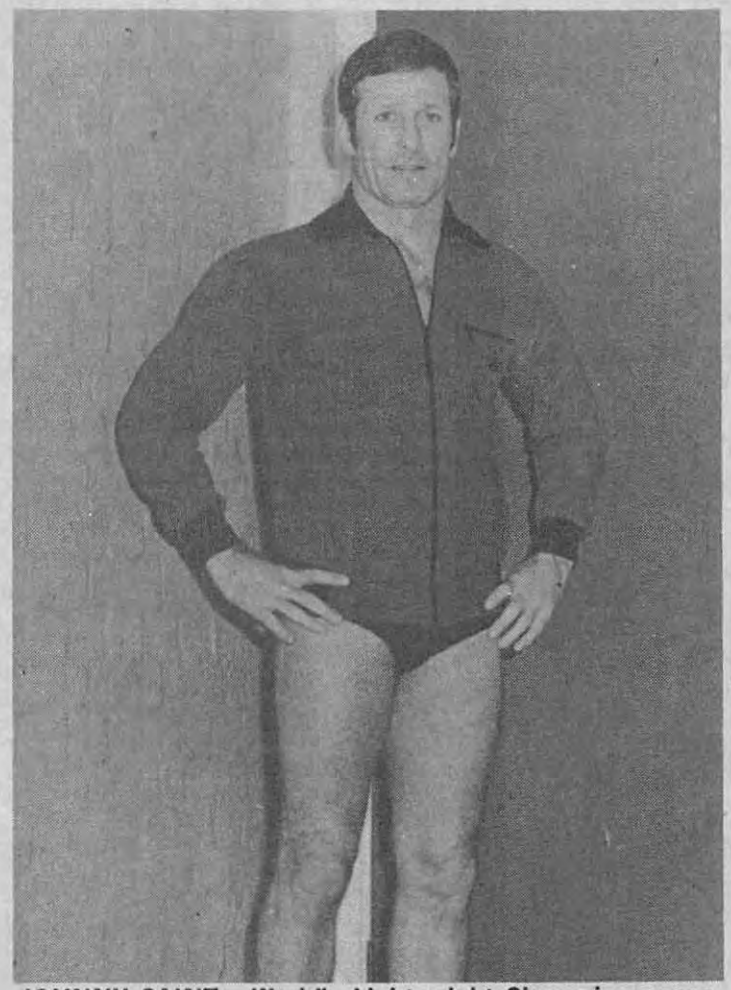
One thing Johnny regrets, is that he didn't actually take the world title from the old master George Kidd, but he has patterned much of his ring style to that of Kidd, who passed on much of his ringcraft to Johnny in training.

To date Johnny has successfully repulsed British and Continental rivals and as he considers himself at his peak, it seems it will be quite some time before anyone will be capable of taking his world crown from him.

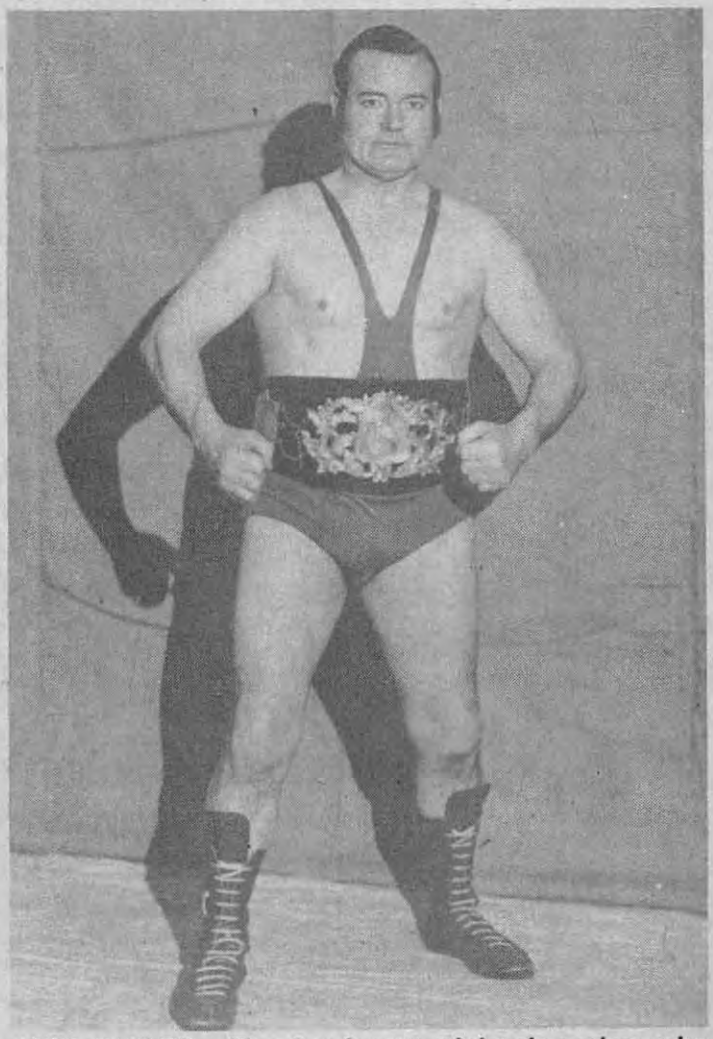
Record books say Johnny is 5'8½" tall, but believe me he is at least two inches more, and he is built more like a boxer than a wrestler, but myself I feel sure much of his fitness is gained by performing much of the boxers methods of training.

Saturday afternoons at 4.00 pm is always TV wrestling, and Johnny Saint is often seen in action, against the best the matchmakers can put against him. Wrestling fans make sure they get their TV viewing whatever happens, and more so if they know Johnny Saint is on the bill.

The two men who really stand out as challengers for Johnny Saint are Steve Grey and Jim Breaks. Grey is of course the British champion, and Jim Breaks has won both the British lightweight and welterweight crowns in his time, and today he is a threat to the best in the business in both these divisions.



JOHNNY SAINT - World's Lightweight Champion poses especially for our cameraman.



JACK TAYLOR - The Accrington triple champion, who trained Johnny Saint and put him on the path of success.

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WRESTLING FANS be the first in your crowd to own an original Destroyer mask

Masks are made of a sturdy material trimmed with the Destroyer's favorite color.

A good fit 100 visibility. Ideal for Parties -- Games -- Fun

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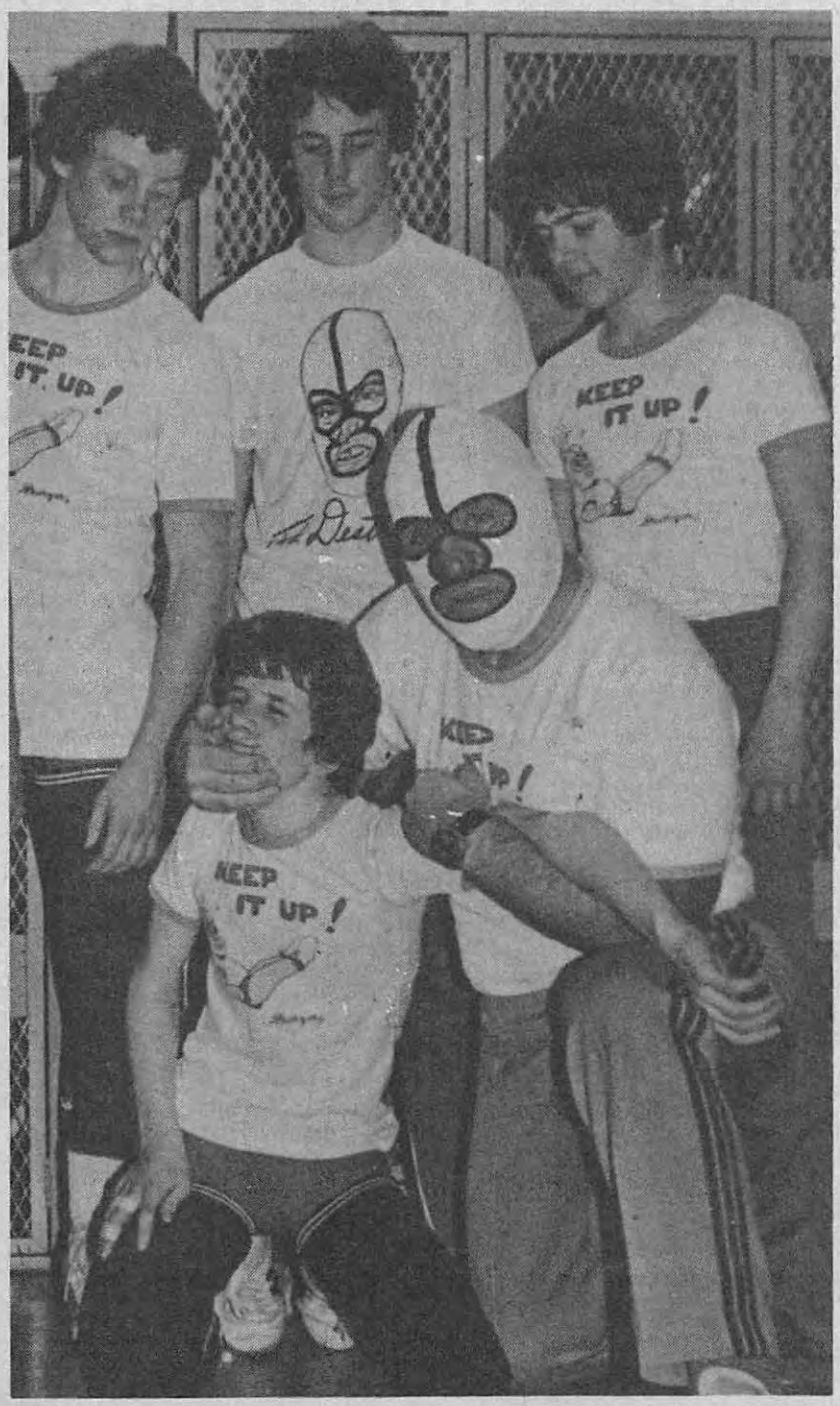

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THE INTELLIGENT SENSATIONAL DESTROYER OFFICIAL SOUVENIRS AVAILABLE EXCLUSIVELY FROM PRO WRESTLING ENTERPRISES

USE THIS HANDY ORDER BLANK

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PLEASE SEND ME:

_____ Destroyer Mask(s) @$4.95 each.
with ☐black trim, ☐blue trim, ☐red trim, ☐green trim

_____ Destroyer Pen(s) @$3.00 each.

_____ Destroyer T-Shirts @$6.95 each.
☐Adult Extra-Large ☐Adult Large ☐Adult Medium ☐Adult Small
☐Child Large(12) ☐Child Medium(8) ☐Child Small(4)

☐ PAYMENT ENCLOSED or CHARGE MY ☐MasterCharge or ☐VISA.

FOR CHARGE CUSTOMERS: SIGNATURE AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD

CREDIT CARD NUMBER, EXPIRATION DATE, AND FOR MasterCard INTERBANK #

NAME

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CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE
ALL FOREIGN PURCHASERS ADD $1.00 PER ITEM FOR ADDITIONAL POSTAGE.

THE WRESTLING NEWS® SWAP 'N SELL

BY NORMAN H.KIETZER

The purpose of this section of The Wrestling News is to provide a market place for collectors of wrestling material. These advertisements are provided at no charge. Anyone who is interested in placing an advertisement should send us a self addressed stamped envelope and we will be happy to send you an application.

We reserve the right to reject any advertisement for any reason without explanation. We also reserve the right to condense, delete parts of, or change the wording of any advertisement as we see fit.

We want to stress very strongly that we do not endorse any of the products or publications or offers that are made by people who advertise here. Pro Wrestling Enterprises does not in any way guarantee any of the advertisements printed here. You may only respond to an advertisement at your own risk.

The Wrestling News does not knowingly accept fraudulent, misleading, or objectionable advertising. Liability for the content of all advertising and for any claims that may arise therefrom is the responsibility of the advertisers and not the publisher. Readers are urged to report objectionable experiences to the publisher and also to the postal authorities in charge of mail fraud. We will provide a copy of the individuals application and also any other information we are able to in the case of any complaint, and we will fully cooperate with postal officials in any investigation.

In short, we provide this free service at no charge to anyone, and we make no guarantees for any individuals listed here so if you choose to deal with someone you are doing so at your own risk.

You may wonder why we stress so strongly in each issue of The Wrestling News that you are dealing with people at your own risk. That is because there is no way we can guarantee the honesty and truthfulness of everyone who advertises here. Why then do we have this section in our magazine? Because we feel that this is a service many of our readers want. And we also feel that the vast majority of those who place advertisements here are completely honest. In the rare cases when there are complaints concerning an individual listed here, we will report on them. Remember that we make no judgements concerning the complaints and we also write directly to the individuals who the complaints are filed against and give them a chance to give their side of the matter. In this issue we will report on two complaints.

The first complaint concers Suzanne Mari of Union City, New Jersey. In issue #84 we published a free advertisement for her in the PEN PAL section in which she asked fans of Rick Martel to write her. In issue #85 we published an ad in which she said she wanted to trade material on Mr. Martel. In the applications she filled out when placing the ads it is required that those who run fan clubs are to give us a complete description of the club, and a letter of written permission from the honorary. Ms. Mari did not fill in the section required for those who run fan clubs, nor tell us she had one.

However, we have found that she did respond to some who wrote her telling them that she was running the official Rick Martel Fan Club. She said that her club cost $20 per year (an amount rather excessive for a fan club dues) and that one would receive pictures, t-shirt, and a monthly bulletin. We have received a complaint that the material promised has not been sent to all who joined and we also received a copy of the club's bulletin which turned out to be a hand written 2½ page letter. Therefore, at this time we are issuing our first warning concerning a fan club. We suggest that you be very careful in your dealings with Ms. Mari because although she placed her ad indicating that she wanted pen pals which is normally a free exchange of letters, and she did not fill out the section of the application required for those who run fan clubs, she then solicited membership in a fan club for Rick Martel to those who responded to her pen pal offer and charged what we consider to be an excessive fee - $20 - for what she did offer.

The second complaint I write about with great reluctance as it concerns a man who was a long time member of our staff and made many excellent contributions to our magazine, Tom Burke. I considered Mr. Burke a strong asset to our organization and also a personal friend who I have known through the mails and met many times in person over the past decade. In March of this year he called up and resigned as fan club editor of this publication. He gave us no advance warning or inkling that he was going to resign. The reason he gave was that he was going to be involved with the International Wrestling Federation, a small independent promotion in New England, and that he wanted to devote all of his wrestling time to this new involvement and that he felt it would be a conflict of interest for him to work for us as well. We gave him our blessing in his new efforts and he promised to forward all fan club material he had received as our editor to us immediately. Because Mr. Burke had long been our fan club editor, and since he lived half way across the United States from us, it had been our practice in the magazine to tell people to send their fan club related material directly to him at his home address in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Mr. Burke had also run a fan club called Global Wrestling Service. This was his own club and had no connection with us other than the fact that Tom worked for us and also headed the club. We had included numerous free advertisements for Tom's club in our magazines over the years. We realize now that many of you relied on Mr. Burke's association with us as an endorsement of his club and activities, even though we have always stressed that you deal with anyone listed in our magazine at your own risk.

After Mr. Burke resigned I waited more than a month, and finally, after not hearing from him as he had promised, I wrote him on April 14th and asked him to complete an application if he wished to continue his fan club and to inform us of his future plans and to forward the fan club material he had received as our editor to us as he had promised. I received no answer to that letter.

I wrote him again on May 5th and asked him for these things again. At that time I also asked him for an explanation of several things that I had heard. Three of our correspondents wrote to us and told us that Tom Burke had told them that we were going out of business. Two of our correspondents, again quoting Tom Burke as the source, wrote and told us that he had written them that he was taking over as editor of Wrestling Magazine. As you can see, the statements above - both attributed to Mr. Burke by our correspondents - are not true and are in conflict with one another.

A wrestling promoter passed along a letter written to him by Tom Burke the month before he resigned in which Tom stated that he was in the process of speaking to a publishing house about doing a wrestling magazine. As I told Tom in my letter to him on May 5th, I had no idea which (if any) of the rumors and statements attributed to him were made by him. The only written proof I had was the letter he wrote to the promoter more than a month before he resigned in which he stated he was going to do a wrestling magazine himself. I told Tom in my letter that I thought he should have first informed us as required by the terms of his written contract with us before approaching others about a new wrestling magazine. I wrote in my letter to him, "I would have been very happy to release you completely from your contract if you had so requested me. I don't think that in the long run you will find a better arrangement for your wrestling journalism ambitions and abilities than you had with us, but this is a free country and I have never stood in the way of anyone who wished to terminate their agreements with us. I only wish that you had been up front about your plans with us and that I would not feel I have to write this letter. You have every right to resign from Wrestling Magazine and to withdraw from your contract under terms of it. But since we have been completely up front with you in all our dealings (or at least attempted to be) we would have expected the same from you. In view of our long association and longer personal friendship I would hope that you would write back and explain to me exactly what you are doing and send us the Wrestling Magazine fan club matterial you have received and not yet forwarded.

As I said, I decided to write about the complaints against Mr. Burke with great reluctance. In the now more than three months since he suddenly resigned via telephone and promised to forward all of our fan club material to us we have not heard from him at all nor has he answered my letters to him. I would not publicly air this matter now except that we have also received complaints from people who say that they have not been receiving the Global Wrestling fan club bulletins that they have paid Mr. Burke for, and also from people who run fan clubs who complained that bulletins they sent to Mr. Burke for review in this publication have not been reviewed as promised. I had hoped that Mr. Burke would forward our material to us as he promised and that he would reply to my letters with a written explanation of his other actions and of what he planned to do as far as his Global Wrestling fan club is concerned. But three months is more than long enough to wait, and I realize it would be unfair now to not publicly warn all who have relied on our reputation and Mr. Burke's connection with us

in dealing with him. I apologize for this situation and to all who sent material to Mr. Burke destined for these pages and dealt with him based on our reputation. If he had been up front with us and not resigned without notice we could have informed those who send us fan club material in advance to send it directly to us. If he would have forwarded the material he received as promised and answered my letters to him I would not now be forced to put this matter to you our readers.

This whole matter brings sharp focus on why I always stress that when you deal with anyone who is given a free advertisement in our publications you do so at your own risk. Because I have promised to report on complaints and to provide information on those who have complaints filed against them, I am fulfiling my obligation to you, our readers, by now doing this and I hope that Mr. Burke will eventually give his own written explanation to me and make good on all his dealings with others.

I would only add that we are the only news stand wrestling publication that currently includes a fan club section. The columns in others have probably been discontinued because of the many problems involved. We will continue this column because we feel it provides a service that we think you, the readers, want and because we feel that the vast majority of successful dealings that result from this column far outweigh the negative aspects.

We are foced into the role of a policeman for the fan club world because it does not have its own organization that carries out this job. When the Wrestling Fans International Association was formed one of its primary purposes was to be a self policing organization of fan clubs that would provide this service to the news stand magazines on whose exsistance fan clubs depend. Over the years the W.F.I.A. has abdicated this role and the policing of fan clubs now falls on the magazines themselves. Facing the situation the alternatives a national magazine editor like myself faces are either to not allow any advertisements for fan clubs, as the other news stand wrestling magazines have done, or to attempt to do the job myself as I am doing. Now, on to the new entires for this month.

FAN CLUBS

The Wrestling Fans International Association is headed by Don Wilson, Box 155, Cliff, New Mexico 88028, and Jim Ross, Box 451, Freeport, Illinois 61032. In the previous paragraph I mentioned something the W.F.I.A. does not do that I think it should. I must also say some positive things about the organization. It runs a fine annual convention of wrestling fans which I have enjoyed attending many times myself. These conventions are open to all interested people for the purpose of displaying fan club material and other items of interest to the wrestling fan. The W.F.I.A. is a positive organization of professional wrestling fans. The W.F.I.A. charges $6.00 for annual dues. In return for this members are promised a bi-monthly bulletin, official by-laws, membership card, and membership certificate. We have just received the first bulletin - the May-June issue - from the W.F.I.A. and it is indeed a fine one. Professionally printed on glossy paper - it has 20 pages - size 8½ by 11 with over twenty photos including a full color one on the outside front cover and articles that are well written. A very professional job - I am happy that the W.F.I.A. again has a bulletin and hope that it continues on this fine level. The organization has also held conventions for the past fifteen years and as soon as we are provided with the place and the date of the next one we will share that with our readers.

Walter Kupiec, 146 North Day Street, Orange, New Jersey 07050, first sent me a copy of his May bulletin of his W.W.F. News and Views club which arrived here on May 11th. It contained 23 pages - 8½ by 11 - with clippings, features, news, and some results - mainly dedicated to W.W.F. wrestling on the east coast. I sent him back an application which he completed in which he promises to publish on a monthly basis. He charges $1.25 per issue or $6.00 for a six issue subscription to his fan club bulletin. He also promises membership cards to those who subscribe for six issues. He asks that check or money orders only be sent in payment and says he will not be responsible for lost change from letters. On June 5th I received another bulletin from him - the June issue. It was 21 pages - same size as last issue and also done on a xerox type copier. Again it contained news and many features of interest.

J. M. Fiori, 626 East Main Street, Endicott, New York 13760, sent me issue #2 of his World Wrestling Federation Update fan club bulletin on June 2nd. He completed the application that I sent him in return and he told me that he is now publishing this bulletin bi-monthly and hopes to go monthly in the future. He charges 55$ for a single issue, $1.50 for a three issue subscription, and $3.00 for a six issue subscription. In bulletin #2 he has features on the W.W.F. and some results reports. In all there were 9 sheets of 8½" by 11" paper printed on both sides with a xerox-type copier. We will keep you updated on this club as we receive furthur issues in the future.

I received a completed application and a copy of the April issue of National Wrestling from Mr. Mark June, 1041 N. E. 28th Terrace, Pompano Beach, Florida 33062, on May 27th. It contains 16 pages - size 7" by 8½" on xerox-type copy, a blend of news, results, reports, clippings and features. He charges $12.00 for a twelve issue subscription to his bulletin, $3.50 for a three issue subscription and the single issue he sent me has a $1.00 price on it. Inside is also a request for correspondents to send him two 20¢ stamps so I assume that is something to also be sent when you order a single issue. When Mr. June first wrote to me in April he requested an application for a free advertisement for his club. He called his bulletin National Wrestling News. In my reply I pointed out to him that Pro Wrestling Enterprises holds the trademark on "The Wrestling News" which is registered by us in the United States Patent Office. I felt that the use of the two words "Wrestling News" next to each other in the title of a publication that is advertised here in The Wrestling News (R) might lead to possible confusion and also I felt it infringed on our trademark. Mr. June has agreed and changed the name of his club and bulletin to National Wrestling - so there should be no confusion there. In his application he has promised, as do all fan club bulletin publishers who are given a free advertisement in our bulletin, to provide us with copies of all future issues, so we expecto to report on this club again next month.

Last month in issue #85 I first reported on Daniel Billings, R.F.D. #1 Millay Road, Bowdoinham, Maine 04008. He had sent us two issues of his Wrestling Writes fan club bulletin which he told us he publishes every three weeks (a total of seventeen issues per year) and charges 75¢ for a single issue, $3.50 for five issues, and $10.00 for fifteen issues. Last month we reviewed issues #14 and #15 and this month we are happy to tell you that we received issue #16 from him (on June 7th) and that it was again a bulletin printed on both sides of legal sized (8½" by 14") paper. This issue contained three such sheets - a blend of news reports, features, results, and information.

That covers the bulletins we have received during the past 30 days. We might add here some general information. When a person who runs a fan club applies to be listed in The Wrestling News, as part of the application they send they agree to send us all materials for any fan club they run so that we can review them in this column. Just for a status report on those clubs we have not listed this month but have listed in previous months, here is how things stand.:

Michael O'Hara - Bulldog Brower fan club. He promises four bulletins per year. Last one received here was issue #10 on April 25th. On that date we also received issue #6 of his Hulk Hogan fan club bulletin. We have not received any more copies of his thrid fan club bulletin - Combat Sports Monthly - since the issue #50 we received on April 16th and reported on in issue #84. Therefore, since he promises twelve issues per year of this bulletin on a one per month basis he is behind in sending them to us as he promised.

Leonard G. Helman Jr. has sent us only one issue of his WWF Results bulletin as we reported in issue #84. As we said then, he did not indicate the frequency of publication.

Barbi Baker sent us the January, February, March (as reported in issue #85) bulletins for her Wrestling Wire fan club. We have not received any from her this past month.

Bob Stoner, as we reported in issue #84 promised to send members a bulletin after each wrestling card in Pittsburgh in which he gives a complete report of the card. We have not received any copies from him since his issue #7 (on the 1/22/82 card) and his issue #8 (on the 2/26/82 card). There have been several Pittsburgh cards since then so he is behind on his promise to publish one for each card there, or at least on his promise to send us a copy of each one.

Donna Crawford sent us here Ric Flair fan club bulletin #7 on 5/10/82 which we reported on in our issue #85 so her next bulletin which she promises to send four times per year should be due in August.

The same applies to Gail Duncan and her Ricky Steamboat fan club reviewed in our issue #85, and to Karen Beckman and her A.W.A. Wrestling club also reviewed there.

Every person who operates a fan club promises in their Sway 'N Sell application to provide us with copies of all materials that a member receives. This means we should receive bulletins from them on the schedule they promise. We have an obligation to report to our readers on how well they are keeping their promises to us, and we will do that with a report like this once every two or three months on the performance of the clubs we have given free advertisement to during that time period. We will review and give addresses for only those clubs which have actually sent us issues during the past month.

FIFTY GOLDEN YEARS ON THE MAT

✻✻✻✻✻✻✻✻✻✻✻✻

THE CAREER OF PAUL BOESCH

✻✻✻✻✻✻✻✻✻✻✻✻

Now available by mail only. A limited supply of the special booklet on the career of Paul Boesch and the Gulf Athletic Club in Houston, Texas that he heads. This fine booklet includes over 100 photos (including 17 in full color) and traces the entire history of our great sport as it relates to Paul Boesch and the Houston Wrestling Office. It covers the past half century in a most complete fashion.

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Gulf Athletic Club, Inc.
1919 Caroline at Pierce
Houston, Texas 77002

Please send me _____ copies of FIFTY GOLDEN YEARS ON THE MAT. I have enclosed $2.50 for each copy ordered.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP CODE _____

WANT ADS

This section of Swap N' Sell is for those people who wish to receive offers from people who are selling items related to professional wrestling.

John Serechen, General Delivery, Yards, Virginia 24659 says that he wants to buy anything and everything (films, magazines, clippings, and photos) of The Masked Superstar.

June Miller, 1049 West Wilkes Barre Street, Easton, Pennsylvania 18042, tells us that she wishes to buy anything concerning Tony Garea or Rick Martel.

Debbie Birkett, 93 Bruen Street, Saint Augustine, Florida 32084, says she is interested in buying anything on Mike Davis and Scott McGhee.

Marjorie Leib, 16 Willow Road, Apt. #102, Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1H 7B6, says that she would like to buy photos, news clippings, programs, VHS & Betamax video tapes and any other information on Ric Flair.

Miss Julie Flom, 559 Blackhawk Drive, Green Bay, Wisconsin 54301, says that she would like to buy any articles, information, pictures, etc. on Tito Santana, Hulk Hogan, Buck Zum Hofe, and Tommy Rich.

John Heinsen, 100 Southcot Road, Casselberry, Florida 32707, would like to receive offers from people who are selling items related to professional wrestling.

Paul Sarro, 357 West Fourth Street, Apt. #3, South Boston, Massachusetts 02127, would like to buy pictures and clippings on Bruno Sammartino and Bruno Sammartino Jr.

Lorrie Hutchison, Route One, Box 38-A, Button Wood Road, Bloomingburg, New York, 12721, says that she would like to buy results and reports on Rick Martel's progress in the A.W.A. and drawings of wrestlers.

James Thomas, 821 Phoenix Street, Greenwood, South Carolina 29646, says that he would like to buy a "Wrestling King Of Sports" t-shirt in good condition. He asks that anyone who has one for sale write him.

Kim Lane, 321 Olson Road, Longview, Washington 98632, says she is interested in buying photos, buttons, t-shirts, cassettes, etc. from anywhere - especially the northwest.

Leonard Brand, 3435 North Neff Road, Edmore, Michigan 48829, says that he wants to buy pictures and clippings from all over - especially Houston.

Raymond Bastien, P.O. Box 165, Ralston, Alberta, Canada T0J 2N0, says that he would like to purchase photos of Ric Flair.

PHOTOS FOR SALE

Howard Baum, 333-09 Ives Dairy Road, North Miami Beach, Florida 33179, has photos for sale. Send him a S.A.S.E. for his lists and details.

Terrance R. Machalek, 448 Jefferson Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R2V 0N2, requests that you send $1.00 for his giant list of over 3,000 photos that he is selling.

FOR SALE

Don Parks, 3810 S.E. 62nd, Portland, Oregon 97206, has a list of magazines which he is selling. He has agreed to provide all who send him a self-addressed stamped envelope with a copy of this list.

Dale Pierce, Box 23241, Phoenix, Arizona 85063, has wrestling photos of Western States Wrestling Alliance grapplers. Send him a self addressed stamped envelope for complete details.

Laura J. Zoffka, 93 Rexford Drive, Newport News, Virginia 23602, has photos of Mid Atlantic stars for sale. For complete details send a self addressed envelope with two 20¢ stamps on it to her.

Gene Gordon, 413 North Deal Avenue, Newton, North Carolina 28658, has three lists of wrestling photos he is selling: girls, men, and midgets. For each list send two 20¢ stamps. Mr. Gordon recently had hip surgery and has notified us that it will be several months before he is again able to answer his mail but promises that he will eventually answer all.

Joe and Ron Cunliffe Sr., P.O. Box 265, Lansdowne, Pennsylvania 19050, request that people interested in obtaining copy of their list send a self addressed letter size envelope and $1.00.

Evan R. Treharne, Ringsport (R), 5 Stockland Street, Caerphilly, Mid-Glam CF8 1GD, Great Britain, has photosets of strong women and lady wrestlers for sale. Details can be found in the magazine he publishes - Ringsport - which is now in it's 23rd year. We recently received the 201st issue - 16 pages on heavy glossy paper. If you are interested in becoming a subscriber to Ringsport the cost is $10.00 for an annual subscription. Evan accepts dollar bills only from U.S. subscribers to avoid heavy bank charges. The cost for British subscribers is £5.00.

New Item:

John Lawson, 618 South Center Street, Terre Haute, Indiana 47807, has both color and black & white photos for sale. For his list send him a self addressed stamped envelope.

FOR TRADE

Mitsuru Uehira, P.O. Box 49, Nerima, Tokyo 176-91, Japan, would like to trade video tapes of wrestling in Japan for same of male and female wrestling bouts held in America. He can also send you a list of tapes he has for sell and prices (including postage) for them.

Shinji Kikuchi, Hiromachi 2-1-19 AP 40803, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, Japan, would like to trade video tapes of wrestling (Beta Max format) with fans in Georgia, Texas, Kansas, and Oregon.

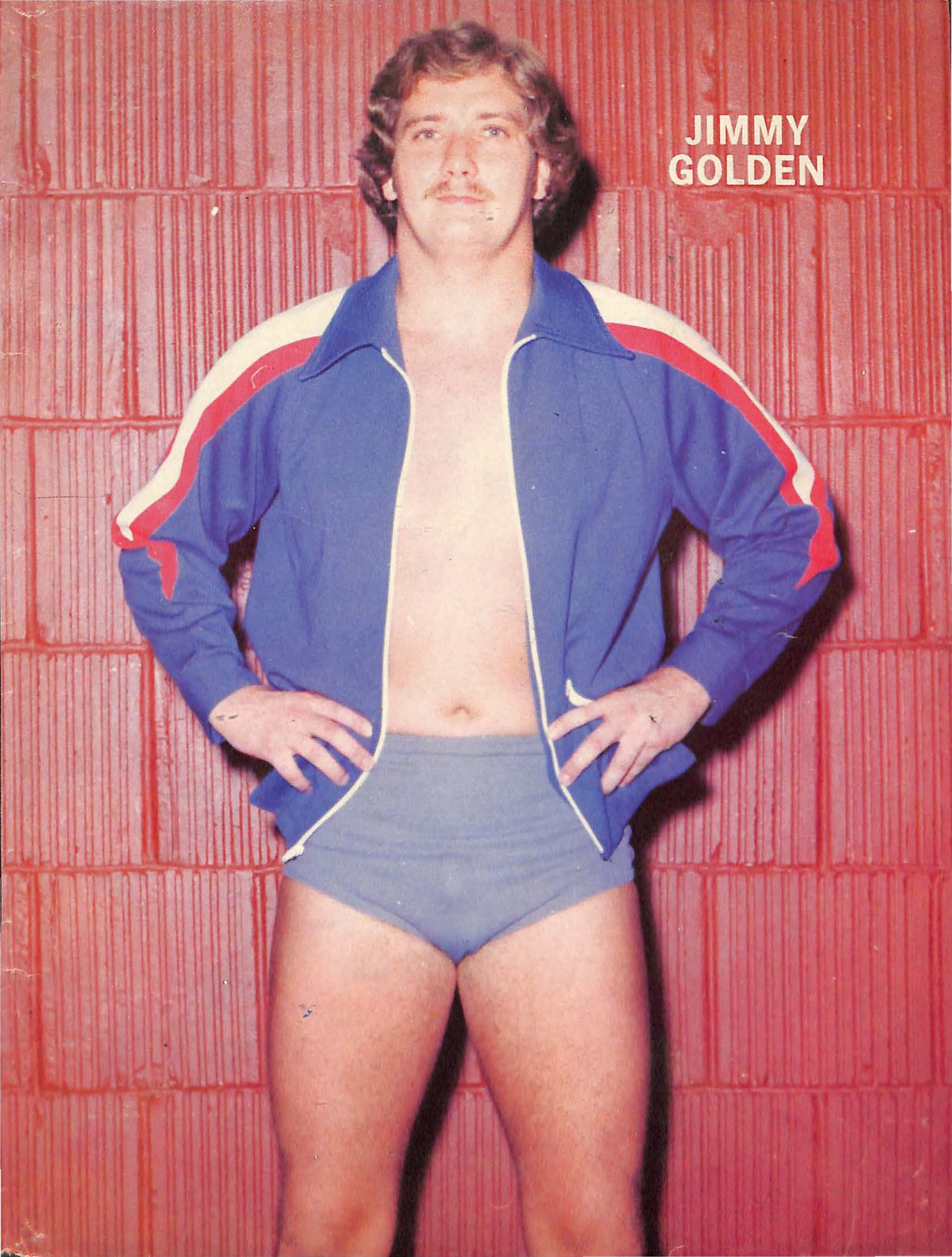
Marty Slobin, 3015 West 13 Mile, Apt. 206, Royal Oak, Michigan, 48073, tells us that he wishes to trade VHS color TV wrestling tapes. He is especially interested in Mid-South (Louisiana), Houston, and St. Louis from 1979 to 1982. He is also looking for good matches from all shows.

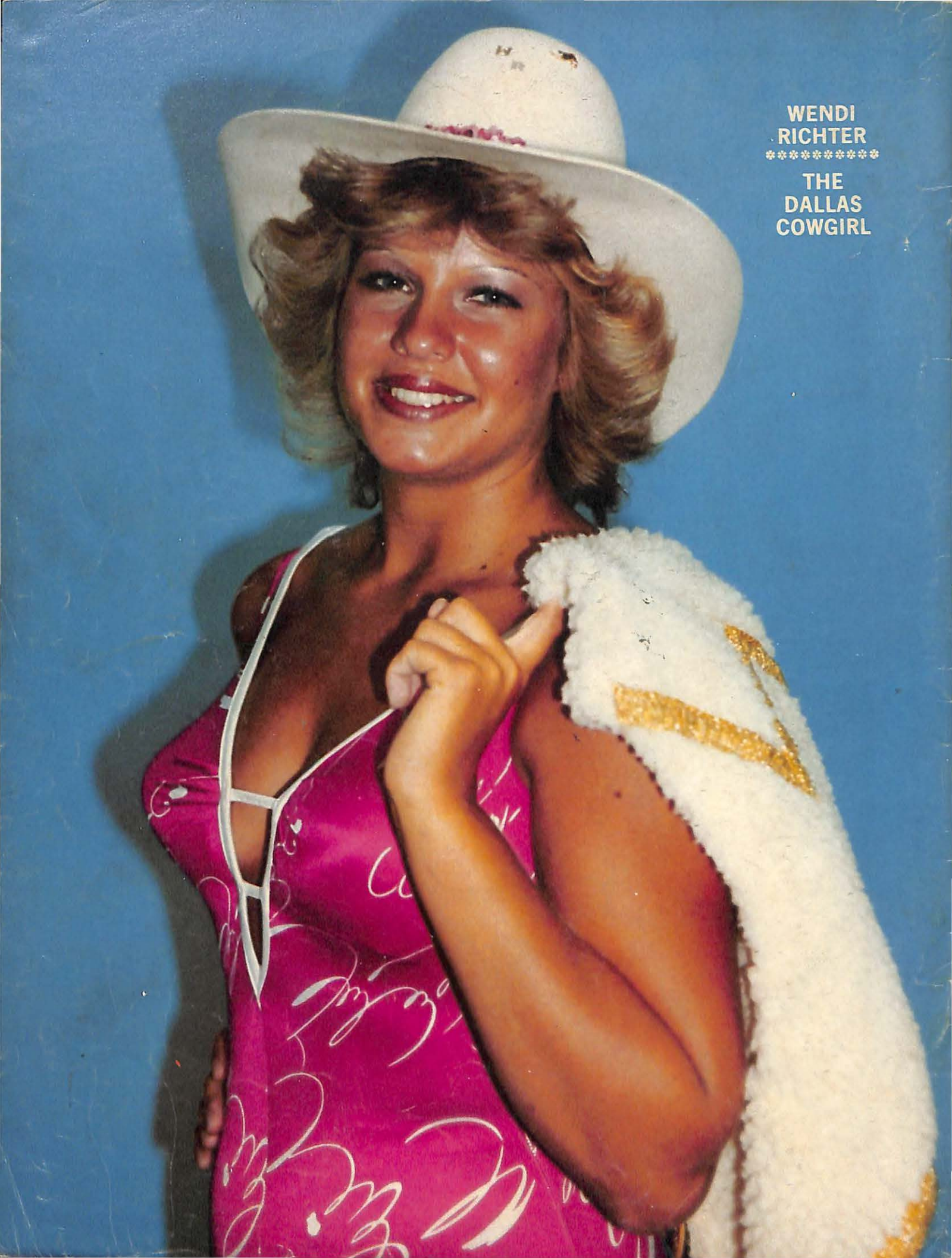
PEN PALS

Patricia McCoy, 2071 Mims Road, Hephzibah, Georgia 30815, is interested in finding pen pals in the A.W.A. area.

CORRECTION

Although we have not received an issue of "The Wrestling Wire" this month from Barbi Baker, we have received a letter from her in which she tells us that we had the wrong apartment number on the address we listed for her fan club in our previous issues. Her correct and complete address is 316 North Negley Avenue, Apartment #6-D, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206. We apologise to her and to anyone else whose mail was delayed because of this error, and we look forward to her next bulletin.


JIMMY
GOLDEN



WENDI RICHTER

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THE DALLAS COWGIRL